

Virginia National Guard celebrates 415th birthday

The Virginia National Guard celebrated its 415th birthday with a ceremonial cake cutting May 13, 2022, at the Sergeant Bob Slaughter Headquarters at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia. Cpl. (Va.) Doug Rumburg, Master Sgt. William Gorman and Sgt. Briana Alfaro, representing the Virginia Defense Force, Virginia Air National Guard and Virginia Army National Guard, cut the cake flanked by Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Jason Pak and Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia.

Prior to the cake cutting, Pak presented Williams with the Governor's 415th Birthday of the Virginia National Guard Proclamation. The proclamation recognized the VNG's history as well its unprecedented employment over the last two years.

The VNG traces the heritage and traditions of citizen service to the 1607 founding of America's first permanent English colony at Jamestown when Capt. John Smith organized the colonists for defense. There has not been a day since May 14, 1607, without a military presence in Virginia to defend freedom at home and overseas.

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



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Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Maintenance key to helicopters' ability to accomplish mission in Kosovo

U.S. Army helicopter repairers and maintainers assigned to the Virginia National Guard's Delta Company, 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment play a critical role in keeping aviation assets flying through routine upkeep and conducting on-the-spot repairs, keeping helicopters safe and ready to fly.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xuzE7>

Shaver succeeds Pillion as MTC commander

Lt. Col. James C. Shaver Jr. took command of Maneuver Training Center Fort Pickett from Col. Timothy D. Pillion during a ceremony May 14, 2022, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xuu9U>

91st Cyber Brigade welcomes new commander

Col. Rusty McGuire took command of the Virginia National Guard's Bowling Green-based 91st Cyber Brigade from Brig. Gen. Teri Williams May 14, 2022, in Bowling Green, Virginia.

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

"Camp On The Move!" slated to return this summer

The Virginia National Guard Youth Program is back with "Camp On The Move!" this summer, a series of single day, camp-style events at different 4-H Center locations across the state.

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

Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

Va. Army National Guard

<http://nationalguard.com/va>

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

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<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

Join the Virginia National Guard Alumni Network

<https://go.usa.gov/xzGT3>

34th CST hosts regional, national partners for joint exercise

Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team participated in a Joint Hazard Assessment Team training exercise with members of the Maine National Guard's 11th CST, the FBI, the Virginia Beach Fire Department and the Virginia Beach Police Department April 25- 29, 2022, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

During the three-day exercise, members of the JHAT survey teams conducted reconnaissance and collected samples of suspicious materials and packages in a military barracks.

The purpose of the exercise was to integrate with the Virginia Beach Fire Department and Bomb Squad in order to capture and compare tactics, techniques and procedures in case they encounter a hazard while conducting a joint hazard assessment team mission, according to Lt. Col. Lyndsey Hodgkins, commander of the 34th CST.

"It is commonly said in emergency management that it is ideal if the first time we meet would not be while responding to a real-world hazard," she said. "We strive to integrate with federal, state, and local entities we may encounter and work with during a real-world response."

In addition, the training was an opportunity for the 34th CST to integrate and adapt some of the 11th CST's best practices.

"Specifically, our survey and communications section benefitted tremendously from cross training with their counterparts," Hodgkins said. "Additionally, the Department of Health and FBI sent representatives to facilitate and assist with the training. We continue to strive to integrate as many agencies as we can during our field training exercises. Multiagency training is not only beneficial for all parties involved but we have experienced an eagerness in civilian entities willing to train with the civil support team."

Training also took place one day at the Virginia Beach Bomb Squad Training Facility and Hodgkins credited the Virginia Beach Bomb Squad with pulling everyone together.



The Joint Hazard Assessment Team training exercise held April 26, 2022, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia, included multiple local, state and federal response organizations.



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She also cited Capt. Samantha Vittorioso, the 34th CST's nuclear medical science officer, and Sgt. 1st Class William Havens, the team's medical NCO, who took the initiative to set up the targets and challenge the team's capability to identify and assess unknown hazards for the training.

The 34th CST supports first responders during potential hazardous materials incidents involving possible chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive threats and can identify unknown substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise an incident commander on response measures and assist with requests for additional state support.

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

MORE ON THE WEB

Photos: VDF conducts statewide readiness exercise

<https://ngpa.us/19758/>

Photos: Bortner takes command of 3-116th Infantry

<https://ngpa.us/19719/>

Photos: Tipton takes command of 429th BSB

<https://ngpa.us/19744/>

Photos: VaARNG leadership team visits Kosovo

<https://ngpa.us/19678/>

Zana ends command tour in Horn of Africa

<https://ngpa.us/19745/>



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