



329th Regional Support Group returns from federal active duty

The first groups of the Virginia National Guard's Virginia Beach-based 329th Regional Support Group Headquarters returned to Virginia June 17, 2022, after supporting Operation Inherent Resolve at multiple locations from Oct. 7, 2021, to June 6, 2022. The 329th's mission was to provide mission command and base life support to four geographically dispersed locations in the OIR area of operation: Al Asad Air Base, Erbil Air Base and Baghdad Diplomatic Support Center in Iraq and Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

"There are lots of stats associated with this mission like thousands of troops supported, tons of supplies and material moved, millions of dollars of projects executed, numbers of Combat Action Badges or awards earned, but the number I'm most proud of is actually zero," said Col. Todd Pegg, commander of the 329th RSG. "The 329th had zero Purple Hearts, breaking the trend of our predecessor units, in part due to our increased focus and efforts on improving base defenses and hardening force protection measures. Beyond keeping our own folks safe, the lasting improvements the Jamestown team made will serve countless U.S. and coalition troops well in the future."

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20417>



The first groups of the 329th Regional Support Group Headquarters return to Norfolk, Virginia, June 17, 2022, and reunite with loved ones, friends and fellow Soldiers after supporting Operation Inherent Resolve.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Williams sworn in as Adjutant General of Virginia

Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams took the oath of office as Adjutant General of Virginia from Virginia Secretary of the Commonwealth Kay Coles James June 28, 2022, in Richmond, Virginia. Williams was first sworn in to lead the Virginia National Guard and Virginia Defense Force June 2, 2014, in Sandston, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20426>

VNG's 91st Cyber Brigade makes history at Cyber Shield

The Virginia Army National Guard's 91st Cyber Brigade, the National Guard's only cyber brigade, completed the congressional mandate of validating the mission capability of all 11 of its subordinate Cyber Protection Teams.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20425>

34th CERFP conducts CTE in Virginia Beach

Virginia and District of Columbia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen conducted a mass casualty response drill as part of a collective training exercise May 24 - 27, 2022, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20423>

VNG RRB officially welcomes Johnson to top NCO spot

The Virginia Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion welcomed Sgt. Maj. Paul A. Johnson as the battalion's senior enlisted leader in a Change of Responsibility ceremony held June 8, 2022, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20421>

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Alpha Company, 429th Soldiers train at Camp Dodge, Iowa

More than 30 Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the South Boston-based Alpha Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team traveled to Camp Dodge, Iowa, to conduct annual training June 5-18, 2022, at the Army National Guard Sustainment Training Center.

“Alpha Company is a traditional logistics company. We supply fuel, water and ammo,” explained Capt. Demetrius Hollis, Alpha Company commander. “Camp Dodge allows Soldiers to train specifically on their military occupational specialties and that’s something Soldiers have been asking for.”

“We’re so accustomed to going to Fort Pickett, this is a great opportunity to get away,” said 1st Sgt. Otis Brown. “We do great training there but this puts them in a different environment.”

In addition to a headquarters element, Alpha Company includes a transportation platoon capable of moving and delivering logistics packages, a water and fuel platoon, and a platoon capable of manning supply support activities.

Hollis, who has been in command for 24 months, said one of the biggest gripes from Soldiers is that they’re not able to do their specific job at home station.

“We’ll go to Fort Pickett and they’ll fire their weapons or go through certain types of training but they won’t get to learn their specific MOS,” he said. “At Camp Dodge they’re given the chance to train. The supply folks are here, the water dogs are on a mission, the 88Ms are given the chance to get on the road and they’re moving equipment from point A to point B, and Soldiers are here learning how to dispatch vehicles. Everyone’s getting a chance to train.”

“This is a great experience not only for the new Soldiers but also for the experienced ones,” Brown said. “We all can learn something new and we’ve learned a lot we can take home.”

While Fort Pickett provides great training opportunities, traveling to an unfamiliar location tests the unit in ways training in Virginia can’t.

“At Fort Pickett you know where everything is,” Hollis said. “Here, there’s that fear of the unknown and when there’s that fear, they pay more attention, they want to do a good job. Everyone is on their A game. They know they’re going to come out better Soldiers when they come out of this.”

One major difference is that when the unit travels to MTC they are often staying in the field.

“We’re pitching tents and pulling security,” explained Spc. Jacob Hughes, a Motor transport operator. “Here it’s more admin and performing missions. It’s the most amazing, helpful thing.”

“I like coming to different places, because at Pickett we’re in the field,” said Spc. Chuck Onuegbu, an ammunition specialist from Charlottesville, who has been in the unit for six years. “Here, I can do my job and focus on that, then go back to the barracks and come back the next day and do my job. In this environment I’m doing better with the things I was rushing with paperwork wise, which forms to fill out. It’s been a solid learning experience.”

It’s not just the location that provided a great training opportunity



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the South Boston-based Alpha Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct annual training June 8, 2022, at the Army National Guard Sustainment Training Center at Camp Dodge, Iowa.

but also the STC staff and their methods.

“The staff here is watching you and giving you feedback in real time,” Hollis said. “Sometimes they’ll let you do the wrong thing over and over to see if you’ll adjust. Sometimes they’ll see if you can think on your own. They’ve been great to work with.”

“The staff here has been outstanding,” Hughes agreed. “If we mess up, they’ll show us the correct way to do it in a manner that’s effective. They’ll show us how to do everything but they won’t micromanage it. They don’t step in and do it themselves. They let you do it and experience it until you can do it 100% on your own.”

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20428>

MORE ON THE WEB

VNG PA talks training, impromptu Pride celebrations

<https://ngpa.us/20418/>

VNG couple talks Pride, inclusivity & community

<https://ngpa.us/20419/>

Soldier’s musical improvisation helped readiness

<https://ngpa.us/20420/>

Photos: 29th ID Soldiers recognized for deployment

<https://ngpa.us/20371/>

Photos: VNG celebrates Unity Day

<https://ngpa.us/20347/>



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