

3647th providing key support to NJ National Guard

The Virginia National Guard is supporting more than 2,500 Soldiers assigned to the New Jersey Army National Guard's 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during their three-week long eXportable Combat Training Capability exercise.

Since arriving at Fort Drum July 10, 2022, the Blackstone-based 3647th Maintenance Company, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group has been providing wheeled-vehicle recovery and maintenance support as well as more specialized trade support such as generator, armament and HVAC maintenance to the 44th IBCT.

Working with the NJNG is mutually beneficial, according to Capt. Alec Hulbert, the 3647th company commander.

"So far, the experience working with the New Jersey National Guard has been good," said Hulbert. "They've been coordinating and planning for this exercise for a long time, and they've kept us well-informed throughout the process. We appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with other National Guard units from other states. Any chance for our Soldiers to learn from their peers and put their skills to work is a win for us."

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20828>



Soldiers assigned to the 3647th Maintenance Company perform maintenance on a Modular Catastrophic Recovery System July 14, 2022, during the eXportable Combat Training Capability rotation at Fort Drum, New York.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

VDF personnel take part in amateur radio group field day

Members of the Virginia Defense Force took part in the American Radio Relay League Field Day June 25, 2022, in Leesburg, Virginia, operating as the Virginia Defense Force Radio Group, an ARRL-affiliated club, to build on their existing radio skills and expand their relationships with amateur radio organizations.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20830>

VNG Soldiers awarded for German Armed Forces proficiency

Fifty-seven Soldiers and Airmen assigned to Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa earned the German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge July 4-5, 2022, at Camp Simba, Kenya.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20831>

VNG Soldier takes gold at World Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship

Virginia National Guard Soldier Pvt. Braylon Manuel won gold at the International Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu Federation's World Jiu-Jitsu No-Gi Championship two years in a row, earning the top spot in both 2021 and 2022.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20832>

New bridge improves MTC impact area access

South Carolina National Guard Soldiers, in coordination with Fort Pickett's Range Operations and Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site staff, recently completed a project to help improve mobility within the installation's impact area.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20833>

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Task Force Red Dragon Soldiers save lives in Kenya

Going out on patrol is not an uncommon occurrence for Task Force Red Dragon Soldiers stationed at Kenya's Camp Simba. It is a very real part of the mission to help protect and provide security for the area around Manda Bay. The patrols help to build relations with the local populace and deter an ever-present Al-Shabaab threat that exists in the region. For one squad, their patrol happened to be in the right place at the right time.

Soldiers assigned to 1st Squad, 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Red Dragon, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa, were conducting a security patrol May 25, 2022, in Manda Bay, Kenya. After moving about four kilometers on foot and were nearing a large village where they proceeded to talk with one of the local residents. What happened next was something they were not expecting.

"Our route had us headed to a pretty sizable village," said Staff Sgt. Chandler Potts, a squad leader with B Company. "The brush was pretty thick and it took us quite a while to move through it. We crossed over to the village and began talking with the first local that we came across. Moments later we heard the sound of screeching tires and crunching metal from behind us."

Potts turned around to see a large cloud of dust emanating from the tree line where his squad had just come from, and they immediately assumed that there had been a vehicle crash.

Staff Sgt. Shawn Powers, the Bravo Co. patrol leader, quickly moved his Soldiers and established a security perimeter until they could ascertain what exactly had happened. Just moments after the accident occurred, while Powers was getting his security established, the blast of a vehicle horn was heard.

"That sound told me that someone was hurt," Potts said. "Powers was setting in security, so I took off running towards the vehicle, that's when I saw the truck on its side."

As Potts approached the vehicle he could see a head sticking out through the passenger window of a truck. The individual was holding his neck while another occupant was at the bottom of the truck on the drivers side did not appear conscious. Potts attempted to make verbal contact with the person but received no response.

"I called for Spc. Montiel, our Combat Life Saver, to start evaluating him," Potts said. "I climbed on top of the vehicle with Spc. Nicholas, our attached medic, and pulled the first guy out of the vehicle through the passenger window."

At this point, one individual remained inside the vehicle. The occupant was unresponsive and the team struggled to find a way to get the person out through the passenger window.

"At that point, I took my kit off and climbed down inside the vehicle," Potts said. "I tried to gain enough leverage to get him out through the passenger window like the other guy, but the cab was too small. So, I decided to try and kick the windshield out. Luckily it came out."

Once freed, the Soldiers were able to evaluate and monitor the stable but unconscious casualty, and they were also able to tend to the two conscious individuals experiencing extreme neck pain. While waiting for the ambulance, Potts and Powers agreed that



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to Task Force Red Dragon, Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa respond to a vehicle accident during an area security patrol May 25, 2022, near Manda Bay, Kenya.

for safety considerations they should move the casualties away from the wrecked vehicle to a better pick-up location to await the ambulance.

Once the ambulance arrived, Nicholas did a medical hand-off with the doctor that was with the ambulance and they loaded the three casualties for transportation to a nearby care facility. After the casualties had been medically evacuated, the squad continued on with their patrol. They entered the village and greeted the residents, many of whom had watched the incident unfold.

"They were all pretty grateful for us helping and invited us to come back to their village anytime," Potts said. "It was a good experience to be in the right place at the right time and help out some people in need."

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20829>

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