

VNG units complete XCTC rotation at Fort Drum

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Blackstone-based 3647th Maintenance Company, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group, and the Cedar Bluff-based 1033rd Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 329th RSG, successfully completed their support of a New Jersey National Guard brigade's eXportable Combat Training Capability rotation July 30, 2022, at Fort Drum, New York.

The two companies were supporting the New Jersey National Guard's 44th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, based in Lawrenceville, New Jersey, as they conducted their XCTC rotation.

In addition to the 3647th and 1033rd, the Emporia-based 1710th Transportation Company, 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th RSG, helped load and transport equipment to Fort Drum and back as part of their annual training, showcasing the myriad strengths of the group, according to Col. Michael Waterman, rear commander of the 329th RSG.

"This annual training was a great example of 'one team, one fight,'" said Waterman.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21068>



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Cedar Bluff-based 1033rd Engineer Company conduct an obstacle breaching exercise as part of the eXportable Combat Training Capability exercise July 23, 2022 at Fort Drum, New York.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Naming Commission announces decision to retain 29th ID patch

The Naming Commission announced Aug. 1, 2022, they will recommend to retain the 29th Infantry Division patch. According to a news release from the Naming Commission, they plan to recommend the Army leave the 29th Infantry Division symbol unchanged, but modify the heraldry description.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/20915>

183rd RTI trains 20 new infantrymen

U.S. Army National Soldiers from across the nation spent three weeks training as infantryman during an 11B Infantry Transition Course, taught by cadre assigned to the 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21070>

VNG engineers, medics conduct exchanges in Tajikistan

Virginia National Guard Soldiers recently completed a counter-improvised explosive devices exchange and a medical infantry tactics exchange with soldiers and representatives from the Republic of Tajikistan in June and July 2022.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21071>

Pre-Warrant Office Candidate Course scheduled for Sept. 9-11

The 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute Warrant Officer Candidate School is hosting a Pre-Warrant Officer Candidate Course Sept. 9-11, 2022, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21072>

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VNG sustainment units conduct command post exercise

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion conducted a sustainment command post exercise July 16-20, 2022, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The five-day mission command training exercise was facilitated by the Army National Guard Mission Command Support Training Program with support from Soldiers assigned the Danville-based 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as well as the VNG Army and Joint Staffs.

“It was fantastic to see the collaborative training between the 529th CSSB and 429th BSB,” said Brig. Gen. K. Weedon Gallagher, the VNG Land Component Commander after visiting the CPX. “The exercise provided an opportunity for sustainment warriors to experience the overlap of the CSSB with its hub-and-spoke commodity distribution systems with the BSB and its delivery of commodities the last tactical mile. It’s one thing to read about it in a manual, but it’s another to coordinate the nodes and schedule the link ups in time and space.”

The goal of the exercise was to increase staff proficiency in conducting the military decision making process, synchronized planning with subordinate units and successful sustainment operations in a tactical scenario.

“The CPX was a great success as it allowed the 529th staff to work through exercise injects similar to those we will encounter at our Joint Readiness Training Center rotation next year,” explained Lt. Col. Carlos M. Maldonado, commander of the 529th CSSB.

During their rotation, the 529th is scheduled to support the 29th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from the Hawaii National Guard, and the exercise simulated the relationship the 529th will need to build and strengthen with the 29th IBCT in order to provide continuous, flexible support to the operation, he said.

In the training scenario, the 529th was attached to a higher echelon brigade combat team, and they were tasked to work with the brigade support battalion to execute logistics in order to maintain continuous, flexible logistical support through the duration of the operation. Soldiers assigned to the 429th simulated the brigade support battalion in the exercise.

Flexibility and adaptability were two of the key lessons learned, Maldonado said. The staffs of the 529th and 429th went through a very detailed joint sustainment rehearsal the day before the exercise kicked off, highlighting routine resupply missions as they foresaw the operation progressing from offensive ops to stability ops. However, once the exercise actually started and injects began entering into the scenario, they had to adapt and overcome.

“Both staffs learned the importance of maintaining a clear common operating picture with higher, lower and sister echelons in the operation through constant, deliberate conversation and synchs,” Maldonado said. “Not doing this could lead to duplication of efforts as well as putting convoys on the road without the required protection platforms or on the most recently approved routes.”

Maldonado explained that Virginia has multiple logistics



Brig. Gen. K. Weedon Gallagher, Virginia National Guard Land Component Commander, visits Soldiers conducting a sustainment command post exercise July 16, 2022, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

units in the state, and exercises like this one are important for developing junior logistics officers, noncommissioned officers and Soldiers.

While the 429th BSB was not the primary training audience, the Mission Command Support Training Program contractors focused on their training objectives as well to include validation of operating procedures, parallel planning and staff collaboration.

“The major benefit for the 429th BSB to participate in the CPX with the 529th CSSB was for junior officers, enlisted and some senior staff to experience integration of support provided by echelons above brigade units,” said Lt. Col. Andrew Tipton, commander of the 429th BSB.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21069>

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