

# VNG Soldiers participate in RC 22 in Tajikistan

Approximately 300 troops from the United States, Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia and Pakistan came together for the exercise “Regional Cooperation 22,” held Aug. 6-18, 2022, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. The annual exercise, sponsored by U.S. Central Command and primarily conducted by National Guard Soldiers and Airmen, focused on enhancing multinational stability operations and promoting cooperation on counter-terrorism and joint combined capabilities among the U.S. and Central and South Asia, or CASA, nations.

“It’s really about collaboration and building those partnerships and ensuring that we all recognize that none of us want terrorism,” said Col. Peter Fiorentino, a Massachusetts National Guardsman who served as the brigade deputy commander for the exercise. “We all want to live peaceful, stable lives.”

This year’s exercise, held for the sixth time in Tajikistan, included both a command post exercise, or CPX, and a field training exercise, or FTX. Both events were preceded by a three-day academic lead-up designed to establish a baseline of knowledge for all exercise participants.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21439>



Virginia National Guard Soldiers work through medical training lanes alongside their counterparts from the Tajikistan Ministry of Defense during the exercise “Regional Cooperation 22” Aug. 14, 2022, near Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### VDF holds Multi-day Unit Training Assembly at Fort Pickett

Members of the all-volunteer Virginia Defense Force conducted communications, security operations and classroom training August 5-7, 2022, at Fort Pickett, Virginia, during a Multi-day Unit Training Assembly. It was the first time since March 2020 the VDF conducted a large scale in person multi-day training event.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21442>

### Commonwealth Challenge graduates 70 from Class 57

The Virginia Commonwealth Challenge Youth Academy graduated 70 cadets from Class 57 Aug. 27, 2022, at the Virginia Beach Convention Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21441>

### Red Dragons earn their spurs in Kenya

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to Bravo Troop, 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Red Dragon, Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa held a Spur Ride August 20, 2022, in Manda Bay, Kenya.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21443>

### 276th Engineers support Fort Pickett during AT

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 276th Engineer Battalion supported Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center with road and facility maintenance during their annual training August 4-20, 2022, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21444>

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# NG Soldiers, Airmen support no-cost clinic in Georgia

Virginia and Massachusetts National Guard Soldiers and Airmen supported a no-cost health clinic offering vision, dental and other basic medical services Aug. 3-18, 2022, in the Columbus, Georgia, area. The clinic was part of the Department of Defense-funded Innovative Readiness Training program with the missions of serving the local community and training military personnel to increase readiness for real-world response operations.

According to the mission executive summary, more than 2,700 patients received care at four different sites, and medical professionals performed almost 12,000 procedures as well as fabricating and distributing more than 1,000 pairs of eyeglasses. The fair market value of services was more than \$1.2 million.

“We feel incredibly proud to be serving this community, and the benefit for the unit has been tremendous in terms of what we bring back to the commonwealth,” said Maj. Robert Hart, commander of the VNG’s Charlottesville-based Charlie Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. “In addition to real world training in their specific duty functions, our Soldiers were able to work in a joint environment they would not normally take part in. It really is a great opportunity for our Soldiers to understand everything from the capabilities of our joint service counterparts or where some of the shortfalls might be where we could fill the gaps.”

Hart also said for the first time Charlie Company will bring back instructors validated to teach Tactical Combat Casualty Care to other Virginia Army and Air National Guard medical personnel. TCCC the U.S. Department of Defense Defense Health Agency Joint Trauma System for life-saving techniques and strategies for providing the best trauma care on the battlefield. More than 80 personnel completed the training and became certified to conduct the instruction with their home station units.

Army medics assigned to Charlie Company helped in-process patients, took vital signs and other initial health checks, and providers including a doctor, dentist, physicians assistant, physical therapists and nurses worked directly with patients.

Hart said he often hears from Charlie Company Soldiers they would like to get more real-world experience with patients, so supporting the clinic helped provide that experience.

“This is the first opportunity we have really had to do that consistently with real patients,” Hart said. “Even our Soldiers who are providers in their civilian careers are not seeing the same types of cases.”

More than 160 personnel from different uniformed services supported the event with the Massachusetts National Guard’s 102nd Intelligence Wing serving as the lead mission command element. VNG Soldiers assigned to the Charlie Company and Airmen from multiple states, active duty and reserve U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy as well as the U.S. Public Health Service personnel supported the clinic.

“The benefit of the joint environment is a shared language and shared training standard across the service components,” Hart said. “The standardization is really important.”



**Virginia and Massachusetts National Guard Soldiers and Airmen support a no-cost health clinic offering vision, dental and other basic medical services Aug. 6, 2022, in the Columbus, Georgia, area.**

Hart explained how each service faces different challenges in providing care and has developed different approaches to finding solutions, and in the TCCC training environment they have a common framework to share all those different experiences to increase readiness and approve their ability respond.

Spc. Vanessa Lee, a combat medic assigned to Charlie Company, said supporting the clinic has been a great experience with a lot of training value. In addition to performing her duties as medic, she said she had the opportunity to see things she might normally not see like dental, optometry and veterinary services. She also learned new approaches to patient care she plans to take back to her civilian health care career.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21440>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### SMR hosts Virginia Army Guard logistician workshop

<https://ngpa.us/21445/>

### 34th CST tackles maritime operations in Maine

<https://ngpa.us/21446/>

### Photos: VNG hosts Guard multi-state logistics workshop

<https://ngpa.us/21261/>

### TF Red Dragon profile in National Guard magazine

<https://ngpa.us/21306/>

### ARNG Weekend Drill Child Care Pilot Program

<https://ngpa.us/21450/>



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