

# TF Red Dragon ends mission in Horn of Africa

Virginia and Kentucky National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, known as Task Force Red Dragon, conducted a transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 19, 2022, to officially end their security mission for Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. Soldiers from the New York Army National Guard's 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry Regiment, known as Task Force Wolfhound, assumed responsibility for the mission.

Approximately 1,000 Soldiers from across Virginia and Kentucky began serving on federal active duty Nov. 27, 2021. With their mission complete, they will return to Virginia and Kentucky in the coming weeks.

Col. Jim Tierney and Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Wolfe, the TFRD command team, cased the battalion's colors, signifying the end of its nine-month deployment.

"Our accomplishments here are a direct result of the leadership of the junior officers, NCOs, and Soldiers of the task force," Tierney said. "Their sense of duty, selfless service, and dedication to mission success is inspiring."

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21687>



Col. Jim Tierney and Command Sgt. Maj. Doug Wolfe, the Task Force Red Dragon command team, case the unit colors during a transfer of authority ceremony Sept. 19, 2022, at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### VNG teams take second, third at regional marksmanship competition

Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airman assigned to units across the Commonwealth made a strong showing at the Marksmanship Advisory Council Region II match, with VNG teams taking second and third place overall at the competition Aug. 26 - 28, 2022, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21703>

### Jumper to succeed Lord as commander of the Va. Air National Guard

Col. Catherine M. Jumper will succeed Brig. Gen. Toni M. Lord as the Virginia National Guard Air Component Commander, according to an announcement made by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21704>

### New VNG incentive offering up to \$750 for qualified enlistment referrals

The Virginia National Guard is offering up to \$750 to Virginia citizens who help grow the force with qualified leads who successfully enlist into the Virginia Army or Air National Guard.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21659>

### Orientation course prepares new DMA workers for success

New Virginia Department of Military Affairs employees completed the DMA New Employee Orientation Course Sept. 8, 2022, at Fort Pickett, Virginia, to learn an overview of the organization, as well as specific administrative training.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21705>

## 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>

### Va. Air National Guard

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

### Va. Defense Force

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

## Join the Virginia National Guard Alumni Network

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

# 429th Soldiers support Saber Junction 22 in Germany

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Richmond-based Bravo Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team provided support to Saber Junction 22 Sept. 3-17, 2022, at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany.

“The work ethic of Bravo Company was overshadowed only by the manner in which they represented the commonwealth,” said 1st Lt. Phillip R. Townley, commander of Bravo Company. “From their military bearing to the respect displayed while enjoying the German culture, the men and women of this company set the standard for being good stewards of the time and money invested in facilitating their trip.”

Bravo Company mechanics from multiple disciplines worked with both active duty and civilian technicians to maintain and repair equipment used during the training exercise. Soldiers maintained a steady state of operations, moving between physical fitness, maintenance and repair, and hands-on training tasks. In total, Bravo Company Soldiers completed approximately 36 repairs across all military occupational specialties represented within the unit.

The Soldiers also experienced formal and informal periods of instruction daily related to safety, Command Maintenance Discipline Program, Sexual Harassment/Assault Response and Prevention, resilience, and MOS cross-training. In addition to the services and repairs performed, the company also completed numerous technical inspections, according to Townley.

Soldiers participated in a cultural day, visiting the nearby town of Regensburg, Germany, and, as an added bonus, they were given an opportunity to take part in helicopter flights, courtesy of the aviation wing.

Command Sgt. Maj. Irving N. Reed Jr., 116th IBCT command sergeant major, visited with the Bravo Company Soldiers. Reed, who is currently deployed to Kosovo with 116th IBCT headquarters, presented coins to deserving Soldiers.

“When you consider the overall experience, Virginians can rest assured their force will return with a higher state of readiness, equipped with added knowledge that will serve them to better perform their duties both at home and abroad,” Townley said. “I speak for all senior leaders when I say I am humbled to have had the privilege of being along for the ride.”

The Saber Junction exercise series is held annually at 7th Army Training Command's Joint Multinational Readiness Center as part of U.S. Army Europe and Africa's exercise plans to assess the readiness of European-based units, like the 173rd Airborne Brigade “Sky Soldiers,” to execute unified land operations in a joint, combined environment with participating Allied and partner nations.

Saber Junction 22 is scheduled to go from Aug. 29 to Sept. 20, 2022, and involves more than 4,400 participants from the U.S., Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo, Lithuania, North Macedonia, Romania, Slovakia, Turkey and the United Kingdom.



**Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Richmond-based Bravo Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team provide support to Saber Junction 22 Sept. 12, 2022, at the Joint Multinational Readiness Center in Hohenfels, Germany.**

The Saber Junction exercise series is held annually at 7th Army Training Command's Joint Multinational Readiness Center as part of U.S. Army Europe and Africa's exercise plans to assess the readiness of European-based units. The Saber Junction series promotes regional stability and security, strengthens partner capabilities, allows the U.S. to field the most modern equipment for all missions, and builds interoperability and cooperation between NATO Allies and partners.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/21706>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### Briefing helps VNG Soldiers plan for retirement

<https://ngpa.us/21707/>

### Photos: MTC leaders visit Sailor's Creek State Park

<https://ngpa.us/21678/>

### Photos: VDF commissions four new officers

<https://ngpa.us/21655/>

### Photos: New headquarters opens for 91st Cyber Brigade

<https://ngpa.us/21630/>

### Photos: Engineer leaders gather for PD muster

<https://ngpa.us/21592/>



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