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VNG supports inauguration of the 74th Governor of Va.

More than 200 Virginia National Guard and Virginia Defense Force personnel were on duty Jan. 15, 2022, in Richmond, Virginia, supporting the inauguration of Glenn Youngkin as the 74th Governor of Virginia. VNG Soldiers, Airmen and members of the VDF conducted a variety of missions including marshaling the inaugural parade elements, playing ceremonial music, firing a 19-gun artillery salute with blank ammunition and conducting a flyover with F-22 fighter jets. A formation of Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen also lead the inaugural parade, and the Adjutant General of Virginia presented a casing from the artillery salute to the new governor.

“It is an honor for the Virginia National Guard and Virginia Defense Force to support the Governor’s Inauguration and recognize our new commander in chief,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. “As we take part in the ceremony, we remember that more than 2,000 of our personnel are currently mobilized on federal active duty conducting missions overseas and training in the United States to deploy in the coming weeks.”

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xtRC3>



Brig. Gen. K. Weedon Gallagher and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Smith lead the marching formation of the parade at the inauguration of the 74th Governor of Virginia Jan. 15, 2022, in Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

VNG assists with statewide response for series of winter storms

The Virginia National Guard staged personnel and equipment for three different winter storms over a two-week period in January 2022 as part of the statewide emergency response helping clear trees after the first storm and staging personnel for the second and third storms.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xtRcQ>

VNG officer helps save 3 lives over 60 days

In the final months of 2021, Capt. John C. Hemby repeatedly found himself providing life-saving aid to Virginia citizens. Over the course of eight weeks, Hemby helped save three lives.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xtRqM>

VDF provides logistics support during VNG winter storm response

The Virginia Defense Force fielded new logistics support capabilities during Virginia National Guard winter storm response operations in January 2022, helping make sure VNG units would have all the equipment they needed.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xtRqv>

VNG officer leads U.S. Olympic Bobsled Team to winter games

A Virginia Army National Guard officer is leading the U.S. Olympic Bobsled Team to the 2022 Olympic Winter Games in Beijing, China, serving as the head coach of the team competing in the global competition.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xtn6G>

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TF Red Dragon begins security mission in Horn of Africa

The Virginia National Guard's Task Force Red Dragon took responsibility for the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa's security forces mission during a transfer of authority ceremony Jan. 8, 2022, Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti. About 1,000 Virginia and Kentucky Army National Guard Soldiers are mobilized as Task Force Red Dragon under the command of the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, and they succeeded the Connecticut National Guard's 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment (Mountain), also known as Task Force Iron Gray.

Lt. Col. Frank Tantillo, Task Force Iron Gray commander, cased the battalion's colors to signify the unit handing mission responsibility over to Task Force Red Dragon.

"We are here to recognize the tremendous efforts of Task Force Iron Gray, and welcome the Task Force Red Dragon team to East Africa," said Maj. Gen. William Zana, CJTF-HOA commander.

During their time in the Horn of Africa, Zana said, Task Force Iron Gray exceeded expectations, including achieving unprecedented levels of engagement with many foreign partners.

"Our relationships with our Djiboutian, French, Japanese, Italian, Spanish and many African nation partners are stronger than ever largely as a result of Task Force Iron Gray's focused engagement, effort and teamwork across all of our joint services," Zana said. "You've made a tremendous impact and left an extremely positive legacy."

As Africa's largest single tactical unit on continent, this task force makes up more than two-thirds of the CJTF-HOA force and is critical to providing security, crisis response capabilities and building partnerships throughout East Africa in support of U.S. Africa Command.

"We have been the multi-tool of the U.S. Africa Command," Tantillo said. "Executing anything asked of us to a high standard."

The battalion, with approximately 1,000 Soldiers mostly operating from Camp Lemonnier, worked to maintain and strengthen relationships with allied and partner nations.

"We could not have done this without our partners," Tantillo said. "Our exchanges and partnerships have enriched our mission and have prepared us for the future."

While preparing for this overseas mission, the Citizen Soldiers continued to support domestic operations including natural disaster relief, COVID-19 response and assisting law enforcement with security operations. The culmination of these experiences – coupled with an extensive pre-mobilization training schedule – has prepared Task Force Red Dragon for the "incredibly challenging and rewarding mission" ahead, Zana said.

Before taking responsibility for the CJTF-HOA security mission, the Soldiers of Task Force Red Dragon completed a Culminating Training Exercise at Camp McGregor, New Mexico. They conducted mounted and dismounted patrols, manned entry control points, stood guard in towers, conducted mortar live-fire as well as company-level attacks. They finished up with a Combined-Arms Live-Fire Exercise, which included air assault,



Lt. Col. James Tierney and Command Sgt. Maj. Duane Wolfe, the Task Force Red Dragon command team, unfurl the battalion colors during a transfer of authority ceremony, Jan. 8, 2022, at Camp Lemonnier, Djibouti.

scout snipers, mortar fire, gun trucks, infantry and two AH-64 Apache attack helicopters.

Lt. Col. James Tierney, Task Force Red Dragon commander, thanked Task Force Iron Gray and leadership for their commitment to improving the mission for both their Soldiers and for Task Force Red Dragon.

"The exceptional achievements from Task Force Iron Gray over the past year have established a solid foundation for Task Force Red Dragon to build upon," Tierney said. "We stand ready to execute all assigned missions as we move ever forward."

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/xtRq7>

MORE ON THE WEB

183rd RTI adapts in changing environment

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

Photos: 229th MPs commended for support to OAW

<https://ngpa.us/18038>

Task Force Red Dragon on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/1stBattalion116thInfantry/>

Task Force Saint Lo on Facebook

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