

Reed succeeds Smith as Va. Army National Guard top NCO

Command Sgt. Maj. Irving Reed Jr. took responsibility as the Virginia Army National Guard's top noncommissioned officer from Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Smith Jr. during a change of responsibility ceremony Jan. 7, 2023, at the Virginia National Guard Sergeant Bob Slaughter Headquarters at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.

Brig. Gen. K. Weedon Gallagher, Virginia Army National Guard Land Component Commander, presided over the ceremony which included an exchange of colors that represented the change of responsibility from Smith to Reed.

Reed most recently served as command sergeant major for the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team during their overseas deployment to Kosovo. There, the 116th IBCT operated as part of NATO's Kosovo Force, or KFOR, and was responsible for peace stability operations in Regional Command – East.

"They say great work begets more work," Gallagher said during his remarks. "I know you've spent most of your time in the IBCT, so we look forward to you being able to leverage those experiences from the brigade for the benefit of the rest of the formation."

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23629>



Command Sgt. Maj. Irving Reed Jr. takes responsibility as the Virginia Army National Guard's top noncommissioned officer from Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Smith Jr. Jan. 7, 2023, at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

VNG conducts CBRN exchange in Tajikistan

Soldiers assigned to the Rocky Mount-based 229th Chemical Company, 1030th Transportation Battalion conducted a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear and explosives exchange with the Committee of Emergency Services of the Republic of Tajikistan Dec. 5 - 9, 2022, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23631>

SMR hosts back-to-back national, regional funeral honors training

Army National Guard Soldiers from around the country traveled to Virginia in December to participate in two separate Military Funeral Honors courses at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23632>

DMA training prepares ChalleNGe staff for cadets return

Virginia Department of Military Affairs staff conducted a two-day, in-service training session for staff from Commonwealth ChalleNGe Youth Academy Jan. 3-4, 2023, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23633>

Virginia Defense Force commissions six new officers

The Virginia Defense Force commissioned six new officers during a graduation ceremony Dec. 11, 2022, at the National Museum of the United States Army at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23634>

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>

State Military Reservation welcomes new commander

Lt. Col. Emily Huffman succeeded Lt. Col. Christopher Dunn as the commander of the Virginia National Guard's State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia, during a ceremony Dec. 16, 2022. Col. James C. Shaver Jr., Maneuver Training Center Fort Pickett garrison commander, presided over the change of command ceremony and the exchange of organizational colors signifying the transfer of command from Dunn to Huffman.

"We fight as a joint force, we deter as a joint force, and we prepare as a joint force," Shaver said. "This is evident right here on SMR with the range of organizations that utilize the installation for training and other activities. This is truly a venue that supports all domain operations."

SMR was originally the state rifle range, laid out in 1911 with construction beginning in 1912. It supported a variety of training during World War I and World War II, and it now serves as a training area for National Guard units as well as other nearby active duty and reserve component military and public safety organizations.

More than 20 full-time state and federal employees provide support to tenant organizations and training at the state-owned, 328-acre installation with facilities including live-fire ranges, an array of virtual trainers, wooded training areas, administrative, classroom and conference buildings, dining facilities, distance learning center, chapel, helipad, land navigation course, airfield damage repair site, beach and amphibious landing site as well as barracks and visitor quarters.

The installation and its staff have hosted a variety of community events including marathons and club events as well as competitions for law enforcement, fire and rescue organizations.

SMR falls under the mission command of Maneuver Training Center Fort Pickett near Blackstone, Virginia.

Shaver commended Dunn for his leadership and the wide range of infrastructure improvements and environment stewardship.

"You've been the glue down here at SMR leading your team and getting great things accomplished," Shaver said. "I thank you for your hard work and accomplishments, and the professionalism you displayed in this second command as a lieutenant colonel."

Dunn explained how his team adopted a trident as a symbol for SMR's mission right after he took command, saying it represented the four critical pieces to accomplish their goals.

He said the trident shaft represented the training mission that is the primary focus for the installation with the three tines of the trident representing the people, place and community drawing units and partners to train at SMR.

He recognized the military and civilian staff from operations, buildings and grounds and billeting sections for their outstanding work.

"These are the people who make this place successful, day in and day out," Dunn said. "Thank you, team, for making my job easy and a source of great pride."

Dunn also thanked their partners with the City of Virginia Beach, Naval Air Station-Oceana and Dam Neck Annex, legislative partners at the federal, state and local level and community partners



Lt. Col. Emily Huffman succeeds Lt. Col. Christopher Dunn as the commander of the Virginia National Guard's State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia, during a ceremony Dec. 16, 2022.

in the Hampton Roads Chamber of Commerce, the Virginia Beach District and the Hampton Roads Military Advisory Council.

"Just as critical to our success are our external partners that make enormous contributions to the environment and conditions that we enjoy at SMR," he said.

Shaver recognized Huffman as the first Air National Guard officer to command SMR.

"Emily brings fresh perspective and naturally a different approach," he said. "I am excited for the energy she's already shown, the positive outlook for the future and digging right in to get to work."

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23630>

MORE ON THE WEB

Read more about the State Military Reservation

<https://ngpa.us/23635/>

Read more about the State Partnership Program

<https://ngpa.us/23637/>

Photos: Youngkin receives VNG informational brief

<https://ngpa.us/23535/>

Photos: 34th CERFP's Medical Detachment 1 gets new CO

<https://ngpa.us/23625/>

Photos: DMA Employees honored at SMR

<https://ngpa.us/23335/>

