

UAS detachment recognized for Southwest Border service

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Blackstone-based Detachment 1, Delta Company, 229th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team received the Virginia Governor's National Service Medal Jan. 21, 2023, at Fort Pickett, Virginia. U.S. Rep. Abigail Spanberger was on hand to congratulate the Soldiers, thank them for their service and welcome them home alongside Lt. Col. Robert P. "Beau" Mason, commander of the 229th Brigade Engineer Battalion.

"It's my honor to be here today as you all are honored for the work you have done, this service you continue to deliver," Spanberger said to the 20 Soldiers in attendance. "I just couldn't be prouder and more appreciative of all that you do, the commitment you have both to our commonwealth and our country."

The Soldiers were mobilized in 2022 in support of the Department of Defense-approved mission assisting Customs and Border Protection on the Southwest Border. They operated the RQ-7B Shadow unmanned aircraft system, or UAS. The Shadow can provide commanders with tactical level reconnaissance, surveillance and communication relay capabilities.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23838>



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Virginia National Guard News Headlines

AG provides update to GA Military and Veterans Caucus

Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, provided an update on the Virginia National Guard to the members of the Virginia General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus Jan. 18, 2023, in Richmond, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23842>

2-183rd Soldier profiled by FUTURES magazine

Pfc. Noor Habr, assigned to the Virginia Beach-based Alpha Troop, 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, spent three days being photographed and interviewed for FUTURES magazine Jan. 19-21, 2023, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23840>

Lee named new VNG state chaplain

Lt. Col. Seung Lee, who most recently served as the command chaplain for the 134th Chaplain Support Team, is the new Virginia National Guard state chaplain. Lee succeeds Col. Benjamin Sprouse.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23827>

ICYMI: VNG 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/23828>

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>

TF Red Dragon Soldiers recognized for duty in Africa

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to Task Force Red Dragon received the Virginia Governor's National Service Medal Jan. 21, 2023, at multiple locations across Virginia to recognize their federal active duty service in Africa from November 2021 through September 2022.

"Our nation is strengthened by your unparalleled courage and made safe by your conviction to protect and serve," said Governor Glenn Youngkin at the medal presentation ceremony in Lynchburg. "It is my distinct honor to recognize and thank you for your outstanding service."

More than 1,000 Virginia and Kentucky National Guard Soldiers mobilized as Task Force Red Dragon under the command of the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team to conduct a security mission for Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa. They returned to Virginia and reunited with loved ones in late September and early October 2022.

Youngkin, along with retired Maj. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and Command Chief Kelly Reich, acting VNG Command Senior Enlisted Leader, recognized Soldiers assigned to the Lynchburg-based Headquarters Company, 1-116th and Golf Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion, 116th IBCT.

"You marched boldly into unknown territory, living and serving in settings unimaginable to the average citizen," Youngkin said. "You did so willingly, because when our country called for her freedoms to be defended, you answered. You answered to serve the greater good, and you answered to be a part of something far greater than yourselves."

Youngkin also recognized employers for their support.

"Virginia's employers recognize the importance of hiring and retaining true professionals such as yourselves and understand the value you bring to their organizations, and this does not go unnoticed or taken for granted," he said.

Williams asked Soldiers to thank their families and emphasized how important they are to mission success.

"Thank you so much for all you do," Williams said "When you go home today, take that extra minute to reach out to your family to say thanks. We don't do it enough. Tell your families how much you love them and how much you appreciate what they do for you."

Youngkin echoed Williams' recognition of families and their importance.

"It goes without saying that your family's serve and sacrifice just as you do," Youngkin said. "Many of you would agree that without their love and support you couldn't do what you do. I can personally attest to that and fully understand that our families are the rock we build on and form the foundation of all that we are and do."

Created in 2005 by then-Governor Mark R. Warner, the Virginia Governor's National Service Medal recognizes the service of the men and women of the Virginia Army National Guard and Virginia Air National Guard called to active federal duty since the terrorist



Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin presents the Governor's National Service Medal to Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to Task Force Red Dragon Jan. 21, 2023, in Lynchburg, Virginia.

attacks of September 11, 2001.

"To see the Soldiers back here, to recognize the outstanding contributions, it's hard to put your life on hold for nine months, but our Soldiers did that in support of the country, and they continue to do that time and time again," Col. Jim Tierney, Task Force Red Dragon commander, told reporters in Lynchburg.

VNG senior leaders also presented medals to Task Force Red Dragon Soldiers at their home armories in Charlottesville, Lexington, Bedford, Pulaski and Suffolk.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23839>

MORE ON THE WEB

Photos: Williams takes responsibility as MTC senior NCO

<https://ngpa.us/23822/>

Photos: 329th RSG recognizes top Soldier, NCO

<https://ngpa.us/23823/>

Photos: Leslie takes command of 2-183rd CAV

<https://ngpa.us/23788/>

Video: 192nd in 90 Seconds

<https://ngpa.us/23830/>

Read more about Task Force Red Dragon

<https://ngpa.us/23829/>

