



**VIRGINIA  
NATIONAL  
GUARD**

**the COMMONWEALTH'S GUARDIAN**

Issue #3, Volume 16

The Commonwealth's Guardian

February 10, 2023

# Lt. Gov. Earle-Sears commends Virginia National Guard

Virginia Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears commended the Virginia National Guard for the organization's service to commonwealth and country at a reception hosted Jan. 26, 2023, by the Virginia National Guard Association in Richmond, Virginia. Prior to the reception, Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Chief of National Guard Tony L. Whitehead spoke during a leader development event hosted by Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia.

"I just wanted to thank you, and I don't know you get thanked often enough," Sears said. "We know you do so many things, and not just you, but also your families. If you are helping us, that means you are not at home with them."

Sears said that often when there is a crisis, the question asked is "Did you call the National Guard?" She said it speaks volumes of the trust and faith the public has in the organization and its ability to provide help.

"We don't take it lightly," she said. "You are the ones who at a moment's notice have to be ready to go. That's an intense thing, and I don't know what we would do without you."

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23992>



Virginia Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears commends the Virginia National Guard for the organization's service at a reception hosted Jan. 26, 2023, by the Virginia National Guard Association in Richmond, Virginia.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### Reed talks pathway to success as Va. Army National Guard's top NCO

During a career spanning across four decades, Command Sgt. Maj. Irving Reed Jr. followed a path that led him up and through the enlisted ranks to the top enlisted spot in the Virginia Army National Guard. His career started in 1982 and today, he's the Virginia Army National Guard's Command Sergeant Major.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/24003>

### VNG medics tackle 68W sustainment training

The Fort Pickett-based Virginia Army National Guard Medical Command hosted combat medics from across the state for 68W sustainment training Jan. 22-28, 2023, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23988>

### Course helps DMA supervisors refine leadership skills

Civilian and uniformed managers of Virginia Department of Military Affairs employees participated in the DMA Supervisors Course Jan. 24-26, 2023, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23989>

### VNG Youth Program gears up for busy 2023

The new year has kicked off for the Virginia National Guard Youth Program with a number of activities including the State Teen Panel as they prepare for this summer's Youth Camp.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23990>

## 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>

## Exercise prepares 34th CST for upcoming evaluation

Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team participated in collective lanes training Jan. 23-27, 2023, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

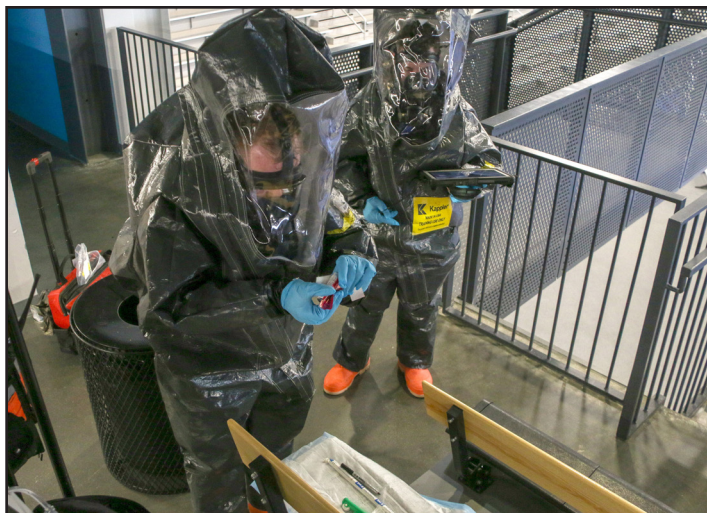
“This is a ‘check on learning’ conducted by Army North and our evaluation team to provide us a snapshot of where we’re at, what we need to work toward and improve upon before our Training Proficiency Evaluation this summer,” explained Maj. Thomas Mecadon, 34th CST commander.

The team traveled to Virginia Beach Jan. 23 and conducted an exercise at the State Military Reservation Jan. 24. After an after-action review and refit Jan. 25, the 34th CST conducted another training exercise at the Virginia Beach Sports Center Jan. 26. They then returned to Fort Pickett at the end of the week.

“This training not only preps us for TPE but it gives us a good external evaluation of what we need to improve on, what equipment may need to be reevaluated and how we utilize that equipment,” Mecadon said. “Not only does this prep us for training but prepares the team to respond to real world events in support of civilian agencies.”

The 22-member 34th CST supports first responders during potential hazardous materials incidents involving possible chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive threats and can identify unknown substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise an incident commander on response measures and assist with requests for additional state support.

The 34th CST is divided into six sections: command, operations, communications, administration/logistics, medical/analytical and survey. The team’s primary response area includes a 300-mile radius from its home station at Fort Pickett and stretches as far north as Pennsylvania and as far south as South Carolina. They maintain personnel on standby at all times, can deploy an advance



Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team participate in collective lanes training Jan. 26, 2023, at the Virginia Beach Sports Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

team within 90 minutes of notification and the main body deploys within three hours.

The unit’s assigned transportation includes a command vehicle, operations trailer, a communications vehicle called the unified command suite which provides a broad spectrum of secure communications capabilities, an analytical laboratory system vehicle containing a full suite of analysis equipment to support the complete characterization of an unknown hazard and several general purpose vehicles.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/23987>



Members of the Virginia National Guard’s Fort Pickett-based 34th Civil Support Team suit up during collective lanes training Jan. 26, 2023, at the Virginia Beach Sports Center in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

### MORE ON THE WEB

**Photos: Task Force Pegasus Soldiers honored**

<https://ngpa.us/23977/>

**Photos: RRB recognizes top recruiters, staff**

<https://ngpa.us/23877/>

**Photos: Infantrymen inducted into Order of Saint Maurice**

<https://ngpa.us/23978/>

**Photos: Pegg honored at retirement ceremony**

<https://ngpa.us/23875/>

**Read more about 34th Civil Support Team**

<https://ngpa.us/23991/>



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard

