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576th EUD returns from federal duty in Southwest Asia

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Virginia Beach-based 576th Engineer Utilities Detachment, 276th Engineer Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group, returned to Virginia Feb. 10, 2023, after serving on federal active duty in Southwest Asia since May 2022. After conducting demobilization activities at Fort Bliss, Texas, the Soldiers flew into Norfolk, then reunited with loved ones at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach.

“The Soldiers of the 576th EUD proved during this deployment that they were truly masters of their craft,” said Sgt. 1st Class Shaun Howard, the 576th detachment sergeant. “Our Soldiers were able to operate in multiple countries in support of Operation Spartan Shield and Operation Inherent Resolve. They showed that they were able to adapt to austere environments, with limited equipment and material, to accomplish the mission.”

During the deployment, about 55 Soldiers assigned to the 576th supported U.S. Central Command’s Operation Spartan Shield where they completed vital infrastructure projects and made significant improvements to U.S. and partner nation’s physical security.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/24183>



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Virginia Beach-based 576th Engineer Utilities Detachment return to Virginia Feb. 10, 2023, after serving on federal active duty in Southwest Asia since May 2022.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Alpha Co. Soldiers honored at Bedford Welcome Home Parade

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Bedford-based Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team were honored for their federal active duty service in Africa at a welcome home parade hosted by the Bedford Boys Tribute Center Feb. 11, 2023, in Bedford, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/24184>

Task Force Pegasus Soldiers recognized for federal duty in Kosovo

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to Sandston-based 2nd Battalion, 224th Aviation Regiment, 29th Infantry Division received the Virginia Governor’s National Service Medal Feb. 5, 2023, in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/24185>

In Finland, Guard leaders look to enhance already strong ties

Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, joined the National Guard’s most senior general to meet with Finland’s defense leadership and observe military training during a three-day stop Feb. 14-16, 2023.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/24186>

Kobernik succeeds Martin as 183rd RTI commander

Col. Kurt K. Kobernik took command of the Fort Pickett-based 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute from Col. Charles B. Martin Jr. Feb. 11, 2023, in a traditional change of command ceremony held at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/24191>

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<http://nationalguard.com/va>

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<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>

VNG training center to be redesignated Fort Barfoot

The Virginia National Guard's Fort Pickett will officially be redesignated Fort Barfoot in honor of Col. Van T. Barfoot, a World War II Medal of Honor recipient with extensive Virginia ties. The ceremony is scheduled for March 24, 2023, in the Fort Pickett area near Blackstone, Virginia.

The post is one of nine U.S. Army installations being redesignated based on the Naming Commission's recommendations to remove the names, symbols, displays, monuments, and paraphernalia that honor or commemorate the Confederate States of America. Of the nine, it is the only Army National Guard installation being redesignated.

"It is such a tremendous honor to name an installation where military forces train to defend our freedoms in honor of Col. Van T. Barfoot," said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. "His magnificent military career was marked by heroism and decades of selfless service to our nation, and his legacy will serve as an inspiration for current and future generations of service members."

The ceremony will be open to invited guests and members of the news media. It is not open to the general public because of space constraints at the venue location, and a video live stream on VNG social media platforms is planned. The 29th Infantry Division Band will provide ceremonial music during the event.

Barfoot enlisted in the Army in 1940, later receiving the Medal of Honor for his actions as a technical sergeant in the 45th Infantry Division in May 1944 in Italy, while fighting against German soldiers and tanks. After World War II, he remained in the military for 34 years, including tours in Korea and Vietnam.

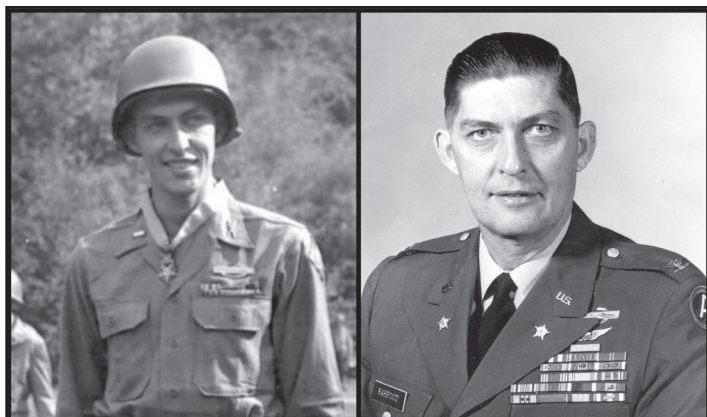
During his post-war career, Barfoot was an accomplished aviator, and is part of the Fort Rucker, soon to be Fort Novosel, Alabama, Aviation Hall of Fame.

Barfoot retired in Amelia County, eventually moving to Henrico County, where he again rose to national prominence when his desire to be able to fly the American flag in front of his home in Henrico County was challenged by the local home owner's association. Barfoot received support from many national leaders and organizations, eventually prevailing in his efforts.

Barfoot also has a significant Native American heritage, as his maternal grandmother was a member of the Choctaw Nation. To commemorate this heritage, representatives from Choctaw Nation as well as Virginia-based Native American tribes will be in attendance at the ceremony, which will include ceremonial songs and dance.

Barfoot passed away in 2012 at the age of 92. In addition to being the new namesake of the VNG installation, there is also a Sitter & Barfoot Veterans Care Center in Richmond, Virginia, operated by the Virginia Department of Veterans Services. A portion of a highway near his place of birth in Mississippi is also dedicated in his honor.

Barfoot served two different times as an advisor to Virginia National Guard units. In the 1950s, he served as an advisor to the 116th Infantry Regiment and later was the Senior Army Advisor to



Then-2nd Lt. Van T. Barfoot during his Medal of Honor ceremony (left) and as a colonel (right). The Virginia National Guard's Fort Pickett will officially be redesignated Fort Barfoot after the World War II Medal of Honor recipient.

the Virginia National Guard until his retirement in 1974. Those jobs brought him to Fort Pickett for training with VNG units on multiple occasions.

"I served as senior advisor for the state of Virginia National Guard for four years. I love them, they're dedicated people," Barfoot said during an interview, part of the Library of Congress Veterans History Project. "I'll tell you, the greatest asset we have now is our National Guard. They're just complete Soldiers."

On his retirement as a colonel, the Virginia National Guard awarded him the Virginia Distinguished Service Medal. He is also the recipient of the Silver Star, Bronze Star and three Purple Hearts for his combat service across World War II, Korea and Vietnam.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/24087>

MORE ON THE WEB

Williams looks to encourage next generation of leaders

<https://ngpa.us/24188/>

29th ID paralegal reflects on belonging, pride

<https://ngpa.us/24189/>

National Guard service benefits lead from GED to MBA

<https://ngpa.us/24190/>

Photos: VNG Soldiers train in Finland during Arctic Forge

<https://ngpa.us/24145/>

Photos: Price succeeds Tierney as commander of 1-116th

<https://ngpa.us/24042/>



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