

VNG fixed-wing detachment named “Unit of the Year”

The Virginia National Guard’s Chesterfield-based Detachment 1, Charlie Company, 2-245th Aviation Regiment was recently named the Army National Guard East Region Unit of the Year for Fiscal Year 2022 according to an announcement by the Joint Operational Support Airlift Center, the airlift branch of the United States Transportation Command.

The detachment operates and maintains a C-12 Huron, the VNG’s fixed wing capability. It consists of six Soldiers and two civilian contractors who provide maintenance.

During FY22, the unit logged more than 700 flight hours over nearly 50 missions, all while maintaining operational readiness at above 90%. That accomplishment merits extra commendation because of the detachment’s small size, according to Lt. Col. Craig Lewis, the VNG’s State Army Aviation Officer.

“Despite the unit’s composition of just six Soldiers, each Soldier is a significant force multiplier throughout the entire Department of Defense,” said Lewis. “Commonly called upon to transport senior DOD travelers, the entire team provides an invaluable resource to the DOD.”

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25329>



The Chesterfield-based Detachment 1, Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 245th Aviation Regiment receives the Army National Guard East Region Unit of the Year award for Fiscal Year 2022 April 19, 2023, in Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Virginia National Guard celebrates 416th birthday

The Virginia National Guard celebrated its 416th birthday May 12, 2023, with a ceremonial cake cutting at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia. The VNG traces the heritage and traditions of citizen-service to the 1607 founding of America’s first permanent English colony at Jamestown.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25330>

VNG kicks off Mental Health Awareness Month

May is Mental Health Awareness Month, an opportunity to remind Soldiers and civilians the Virginia Army National Guard behavioral health program is ready to provide mental health support to service members throughout the year.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25332>

Five Air National Guard wings train at Operation Hoodoo Sea

Led by the Virginia Air National Guard, five Air National Guard wings are conducting agile combat training during Operation Hoodoo Sea along the southeast U.S. coast.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25333>

Chaplains gather for annual sustainment training

Chaplains and religious affairs specialists from the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard and Virginia Defense Force participated in Joint Chaplain Annual Sustainment Training May 6, 2023, in Richmond, Virginia.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25327>

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<http://nationalguard.com/va>

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Join the Virginia National Guard Alumni Network

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New warrant officers recognized as TACs make national impact

The Virginia Army National Guard's Warrant Officer Candidate School recognized the graduation of six warrant officer candidates from Class 23-001 in a ceremony held May 6, 2023, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia. The class of newly-promoted warrant officers included Soldiers from both the Virginia and North Carolina Army National Guard, as well as the U.S. Army Reserve.

"To the candidates, congratulations. You are now entering into a new adventure, a new phase of your career," said Chief Warrant Officer 5 John D. Calley, the Virginia National Guard's command chief warrant officer and guest speaker for the WOCS recognition ceremony. "You are now entering into an era where you are looked up to from your subordinates, you're looked at by your peers and you're looked at by your leadership to provide sound advice."

In order to gain entry into the warrant officer corps, the students first tackled pre-WOCS, a weekend-long experience that educates prospective warrant officers on what WOCS and life as a warrant officer is like. Then, once accepted into the program, they started Phase I of WOCS, held over six consecutive monthly drill weekends at the Fort Barfoot-based 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute.

During Phase I, they focused on academics and challenged themselves physically with the Army Combat Fitness Test, ruck marches and runs. Then, it was time for the second and final phase of WOCS, held this year at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

Phase II brings together warrant officers from RTIs across the nation together to train alongside one another for two weeks. Once they successfully met course standards, the candidates graduated WOCS at Fort McClellan and returned to Virginia to be recognized by their families, peers and leaders.

"It's a tough, rigorous program and it's designed that way to shape them into the leaders they need to be," said Lt. Col. Eric Quinn, commander of 3rd Battalion, 183rd RTI, which includes the VNG WOCS. "Congratulations to you all, the road doesn't get easier from here, but you all are definitely set up for success."

Training, Advising and Counseling officers, or TACs, from the VNG WOCS also traveled to Fort McClellan where they served as cadre during Phase II, overseeing approximately 100 warrant officer candidates from across the nation.

"Being a TAC officer as McClellan is a great experience because you're introduced to a lot of different [teaching] styles from all over the country," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Shawn Crookshanks. "You grow and you learn and better you craft as a TAC officer and then you also get to see and interact with candidates from all over the nation as well."

At Fort McClellan, the candidates focused on land navigation, physical fitness, academics and leadership assessments, as well as several exams. Candidates came from RTIs in states including Alabama, California, Kansas, Missouri, Mississippi, Virginia and Washington. Twelve TACs oversaw the candidates and Chief Warrant Officer 4 James Ford, from Virginia, served as the senior TAC.



Virginia National Guard and U.S. Army Reserve candidates swear in as new the nation's newest warrant officers during a recognition ceremony May 6, 2023, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.

Serving as cadre at Phase II allows Virginia's WOCS to reach beyond the state's borders and impact the incoming warrant officer cohort on a national scale. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Al White, who this year served as the executive officer during Phase II, has been a TAC with the VNG's WOCS since 2013, and has traveled to Phase II as cadre several times, last year earning TAC of the cycle, a notable recognition.

"Virginia has, in a lot of ways, helped set the standard with some pretty critical things," White said.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25328>

MORE ON THE WEB

VNG NCO talks experience from pandemic to promotion

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25331>

DMA employees recognized at Fort Barfoot luncheon

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/25318>

VDF conducts hurricane readiness exercise

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/25335>

1710th TC prepares for cross-country line haul mission

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/25334>

Newest VNG recruits recognized at ceremony

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/25314>

