

91st Cyber Brigade leads Cyber Shield 2023

More than 800 National Guard Airmen, Soldiers and international partners participated in the 2023 Cyber Shield cybersecurity exercise June 2-17, 2023, in Little Rock, Arkansas. During the exercise, subordinate units of the Virginia National Guard's Fort Belvoir-based 91st Cyber Brigade conducted required validation and recertifications.

The 91st Cyber Brigade is the first and only Army National Guard Cyber Brigade in the country. The brigade's five Cyber Protection Battalions each employ two Cyber Protection Teams whose primary mission is Defensive Cyberspace Operations. All CPTs within the brigade have been validated against U.S. Cyber Command standards and perform annual recertifications conducted by the 169th CPT, an all-Active Guard and Reserve CPT which falls directly under the 91st Cyber Brigade.

"We hope Cyber Shield not only helps us evaluate our different battalions," said U.S. Army Col. Russell McGuire, 91st Cyber Brigade commander. "We hope that [Cyber Shield] better prepares us for the mission to support the defense of cyberspace operations."

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25928>



Leaders of the 91st Cyber Brigade discuss cyber operations during a staff huddle at Cyber Shield 2023 June 14, 2023, in Little Rock, Arkansas. National Guard members from 36 states, 15 international state partners from five nations and civilian agencies came together for the exercise.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

1710th, 1032nd conduct transportation missions during AT

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Gate City-based 1030th Transportation Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group recently conducted various missions across the country in support of the Army Materiel Command during their annual training.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25930>

Engineers begin construction of new demo range at Fort Barfoot

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to engineer units from across the state worked together to begin construction on a new light demolition range during annual training June 3-17, 2023, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25931>

203rd RED HORSE conducts engineer exchange in Tajikistan

Virginia National Guard Airmen assigned to the Virginia Beach-based 203rd RED HORSE, 192nd Wing conducted an engineer exchange with the Republic of Tajikistan June 5 - 9, 2023, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25932>

Grant furthers testing of hemp-based targets at Fort Barfoot

The Virginia Department of Military Affairs recently received a \$1,000 grant to be used to further research and testing of hemp-plastic targets at Fort Barfoot, according to John Sadler, Fort Barfoot integrated solid waste manager.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25935>

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Families get taste of AT during 276th's "Plus One Day"

Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Petersburg-based 276th Engineer Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group participated with family members and loved ones in the battalion's inaugural Plus One Day June 9, 2023, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia. More than 20 family members and friends showed up to take part in the event with their Soldiers.

When National Guard Soldiers leave their families and friends behind to attend annual training in the summer months, many of those left behind never get the opportunity to experience just a small part of what their Soldiers do during those periods apart. The 276th Engineers helped to bridge that gap by hosting a special day geared towards bringing Soldiers and family members together in a shared military experience.

"In the active component, often times family members are invited to go with their Soldiers out to the range or an obstacle course," said Maj. Andrew J. Czaplicki, the 276th's executive officer. "They get a better understanding of the challenges, both physical and mental, that their Soldiers face on a normal day. This helps to bridge the gap between spouses, family, and Soldiers."

Family members and "plus ones" arrived on post and were fitted with military personal protective equipment, including a kevlar vest, eye and hearing protection and a helmet. After a safety briefing, the group of Soldiers and family members proceeded to the Engagement Skills Trainer, a virtual range, where they were coached in basic marksmanship skills by their Soldier.

From there, they moved out to a real-world rifle range where they broke for lunch and were treated to a Meal, Ready-to-Eat. The "plus ones" were then briefed on range safety and, with their Soldier as coaches, moved onto the range to fire the M4 rifle.

First Lt. Jenesis Harper, outgoing executive officer with the Powhatan-based 180th Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, and her father, Mark Harper of Haymarket, Virginia, were two of the participants.

"Having the opportunity to bring my father along adds to the greater picture and purpose," Harper said. "It's nice for him to get a peak behind the curtain of this uniform that I serve in, and try and give him as much of an Army experience as possible in a safe manner. I'm loving the opportunity and experience of being out here with my dad."

Harper's father expressed his admiration for the unit hosting the event.

"This is something that every Soldier, family member and important person in a Soldier's life, such as an employer, should have an opportunity to experience," he said. "My father is a retired lieutenant colonel in the Army, I did not serve. Now I have a daughter serving. To be able to see her operate in the field, it makes me almost speechless. I'm so proud of her."

From the rifle range they proceeded to the Staff Sgt. Jesse Ault Wheeled Vehicle Obstacle Course where the group rode in Humvees through some of the course's obstacles and called in checkpoints over the radio. This gave the "plus ones" the entire Army experience of shooting, moving and communicating.



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Petersburg-based 276th Engineer Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group, participate with family members and loved ones in the battalion's inaugural Plus One Day June 9, 2023, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.

The event was formed out of feedback taken from Soldiers after their 2022 annual training. The battalion conducted the necessary research and received the approval to be able to put on the event at Fort Barfoot.

"We have received nothing but support from the Maneuver Army Training Center at Fort Barfoot," said Czaplicki. "All of the directorates have been phenomenal in helping us."

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25929>

MORE ON THE WEB

Governor hosts signing ceremony at Va. War Memorial

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/25908>

AG visits RSP 9 in Virginia Beach

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/25889>

192nd MDG Det-1 trains on new CBRNE tents

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25933>

Voices of the VaANG: 2nd Lt. Brittney Brandon-Jordan

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/25934>

192nd in 90 Seconds - June 2023

Video on YouTube at <https://ngpa.us/25937>

