

Cyber Fortress 2.0 tests Virginia's cyber response plan

The Virginia National Guard hosted Cyber Fortress 2.0 from July 10-21, 2023, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia. The exercise brought together state and federal organizations who will respond in a real-world cyber incident and provided an opportunity to test Virginia's cyber response plan and better prepare for future collective responses.

This year's exercises focused on a cyber attack on a major telecom mission partner with participation from public and private partners from the local, state and federal level, explained Col. Rusty McGuire, commander of the VNG's Fort Belvoir-based 91st Cyber Brigade. For the first time, the exercise tested an actual cyber-attack on a telecom training network located at the Muscatatuck Urban Training Center in Jennings, Indiana.

"This is truly an outstanding exercise that puts our collective cyber incident response to the test," McGuire said. "This year training was more realistic with the cyber warriors defending and attacking an actual network that controls a telecom infrastructure. Virginia is better prepared to respond to cyber-attack because of the professionals collaborating at Cyber Fortress."

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/26607>



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 91st Cyber Brigade and the Joint Force Headquarters - Virginia Defense Cyber Operations Element take part in Cyber Fortress 2.0 July 13, 2023, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

U.S., partner nations complete Regional Cooperation 23 in Montana

Over the course of 10 days, more than 230 individuals from the United States, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, as well as observers from Turkmenistan, came together for Exercise Regional Cooperation 23, held Aug. 8-18, 2023, in Helena, Montana.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/26611>

First civilian receives payment for VNG Referral Enlistment Program

Michelle Lard received a ceremonial check for \$500 as part of her participation in the Virginia National Guard's Referral Enlistment Program Aug. 6, 2023, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/26610>

Lange to succeed Batterton as 192nd Wing commander

Col. Brock E. Lange will succeed Col. Christopher G. Batterton as commander of the Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Wing, according to an announcement made July 27, 2023.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/26608>

192nd Maintenance Group recognizes new commander

Col. Timothy M. "Splash" Strouse was promoted to colonel and assumed command of the 192nd Maintenance Group from Col. Matthew R. Hummel, Aug. 6, 2023, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/26612>

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://ngpa.us/26613>

Va. Defense Force

<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

Earn \$1,000 with the VNG Referral Enlistment Program

<https://ngpa.us/26606>

New recruiting storefront opens in Roanoke

The Virginia Army National Guard celebrated the opening of their new Roanoke-area recruiting storefront with a ribbon cutting and open house Aug. 12, 2023, in Roanoke, Virginia. Staff Sgt. James Maish and Sgt. Dylan Osborne cut the ribbon for the new location, joined by Brig. Gen. K. Weedon Gallagher, VNG Assistant Adjutant General - Army, Maj. Kim Wynn, commander of the VaARNG Recruiting and Retention Battalion, Martha Hooker, chair of the Roanoke County Board of Supervisors, and Master Sgt. Jessica Dickenson, recruiting supervisor for the Roanoke area.

“We know the Shenandoah Valley very well as our Soldiers live and work in the fabric of the area,” Gallagher said. “It’s particularly rewarding to open this facility here in Roanoke. Our recruiters will be here frequently and at your convenience, not to mention dozens of other cities throughout the commonwealth. Our Soldiers train in nearby Lexington, Lynchburg, Rocky Mount and Troutville, and this facility will be a rally point for these units and Soldiers. It will also be a rally point for fellow Virginians to learn about the Virginia Army National Guard and our Soldiers.”

The 1,600 square foot office will house at least three Virginia Army National Guard recruiters, as well as additional staff from within the Recruiting and Retention Battalion. The storefront will serve as a recruiting hub for the entire greater Roanoke area, and provide support to Virginia Army National Guard units including the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, the Rocky Mount-based 229th Chemical Company and the Troutville-based 29th Infantry Division Band.

“Thank you for coming home,” Hooker said. “We welcome you, and we are here to serve you as you serve our community and beyond. We want you to know that we want to do everything we can to make this a great location for you.”

At their new storefront, recruiters will walk potential applicants through the process of joining the Virginia Army National Guard, and will be on hand to answer questions about the benefits of serving, which include up to \$20,000 a year in state tuition assistance, paid training, low-cost health, dental and life insurance and additional military benefits, like qualifying for VA home loans. Learn more about incentives for joining the VaARNG at <https://ngpa.us/26510>.

Gallagher also emphasized how the storefront is easily accessible and makes Soldiers more approachable.

“This facility presents a touchpoint for fellow Virginians to learn more about the VaARNG,” he said. “We realize young people today have many options for where to work and devote their skills, time and energy. We would like to have a chance to let them know about opportunities in the VaARNG, the kind of skills they can learn and the benefits of military service for them and their families. Beyond the benefits, serving in the National Guard is a chance to be part of team, give back to your community and help defend our nation and the freedoms we hold so dear.”

Wynn emphasized to the attendees that “everyone is a recruiter” and talked about how Virginia residents can earn \$1,000 with the



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Referral Enlistment Program, or REP. The program provides a \$1,000 for each referral who enlists into the Virginia Army National Guard and completes their required training. More information on the REP can be found at <https://ngpa.us/25866>.

She said the referral program allows for civilians who know men or women who would be excellent members of the Virginia National Guard to earn \$1,000 for every recruit who enlists and completes training, and citizens can earn it multiple times.

“If you bring in five leads who enlist in the Virginia National Guard, I will bring you five separate \$1,000 checks,” she said.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/26605>

MORE ON THE WEB

1173rd conducts real-world transportation mission

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/26621>

Voices of the VaANG: Senior Airman Taylor Webb

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/26609>

Wilcox receives first payment for enlistment referral

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/26558>

Soldiers earn German Armed Forces Proficiency Badge

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/26594>

Shaver welcomes Secretary Blinken to Fort Barfoot

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/26497>



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