

Resolution recognizes 20th anniversary of Tajikistan partnership

Del. David Reid and State Senator Bryce Reeves, co-chairs of the Virginia General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus, presented House Joint Resolution No. 673 commending the 20th anniversary of Virginia National Guard's State Partnership Program with the Republic of Tajikistan to Gen. Col. Rajabali Rahmonali, first deputy chair and commander of the Border Guard, State Committee for National Security of the Republic of Tajikistan, Sept. 20, 2023, in Richmond, Virginia.

"I am very honored and grateful to be presented with this historical document that confirms the cooperation between Virginia and Tajikistan," Rahmonali. "I sincerely believe there will be a 30th and 40th anniversary, and our relationship will strengthen and we will continue our cooperation."

Reid said it was an honor to recognize the 20-year partnership and explained the joint resolution is now part of the permanent record of the General Assembly, and it will be accessible for anyone doing research in the future.

Rahmonali also presented a gift to retired Maj. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/27146>



Gen. Col. Rajabali Rahmonali receives House Joint Resolution No. 673 commending the 20th anniversary of Virginia National Guard's State Partnership Program with the Republic of Tajikistan Sept. 20, 2023, in Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

229th BEB leaders observe defense exercise in Finland

Key leaders of the Fredericksburg-based 229th Brigade Engineer Battalion, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and other Virginia National Guard personnel traveled to Finland to observe a Local Defense Exercise, or PAPU, Sept. 4-9, 2023.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/27148>

VNG marksmanship experts conduct historic exchange in Tajikistan

Three Virginia National Guard Soldiers participated in marksmanship exchange with female members of Tajik National Police Sept. 5-9, 2023, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/27149>

SMR DMA employees celebrated at 2023 Fall Festival

Virginia Department of Military Affairs employees attended the 2023 DMA Fall Festival Sept. 22, 2023, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/27150>

VNG celebrates commissioning of 10 new OCS graduates

The Virginia National Guard welcomed 10 new lieutenants to its ranks Sept. 17, 2023, during a commissioning ceremony for the graduates of Officer Candidate School Class 65, as well as Class 66A and 66B, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/27151>

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St. Lo Soldiers honor heritage during “Chubby Cup” competition

Nine teams of Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team competed in the battalion's Carl “Chubby” Proffitt Jr. Squad Competition Sept. 9, 2023, at Fort Walker, Virginia. The teams, representing each of the battalion's four companies, competed in a series of events meant to test their physical fitness, tactical skills and their ability to work together.

Proffitt, the competition's namesake, was a Virginia National Guard Soldier who served with 3rd Battalion during World War II, including the D-Day invasion at Normandy. Proffitt was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for his actions in Normandy, and later received a battlefield commission to second lieutenant. He passed away in 2015 at the age of 96.

To honor his legacy, the St. Lo Battalion began what they intend to be an annual squad competition, first holding the event in 2022. According to the battalion's commander, Lt. Col. Thomas Bortner, the competition is in keeping with the unit's priorities.

“The squad is building block of the U.S. Army, particularly the infantry,” said Bortner. “The Sergeant Major of the Army launched his initiative of “This is My Squad” back in 2020, and we believe in that priority. Additionally, the 116th IBCT is transitioning into a focus on squad collective training. Developing and training proficient squads is critical for our high-performing organization.”

In addition to the intense training and competition, the event also honors the unit's long legacy of excellence.

“The Chubby Cup is meant to not only be a competition between the companies, but to also serve as a reminder of the battalion's lineage which can sometimes be overlooked because of busy training schedules or not even known by newer Soldiers just joining the unit,” said 1st Lt. Matt St. Pierre, the battalion's plans officer. “In planning this year's competition, we took what was done last year and tried to build upon that using feedback we'd received from the Soldier's that participated to make it bigger, better, and hopefully more impactful.”

This year, a team from the Woodstock-based Bravo Company took home the “Chubby Cup.”

“Winning the Chubby Cup is a big deal for anyone in 3rd Battalion, said 2nd Lt. Jacob Menders, a platoon leader with Bravo Company. “It really shows that all the hard work that Bravo Company has put into training has paid off.”

Bortner said all of the squads performed at a high level.

“The St. Lo Battalion has an incredible formation with individuals who know how to work as a team,” said Bortner. “All of the squads performed exceptionally, and the experience translates to continued success.”

For the participants, the competition was a chance to show off their fitness, knowledge and teamwork.

“I'm pretty competitive and like to win,” said Menders. “So, I picked Soldiers who I know stay physically fit and have some experience with everything we'd be doing, but also that I knew would be willing to help others if they saw a teammate falling behind.”



Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team compete in the battalion's Carl “Chubby” Proffitt Jr. Squad Competition, otherwise known as the “Chubby Cup,” Sept. 9, 2023, at Fort Walker, Virginia.

“It was fun being able to compete and for our team to demonstrate their overall readiness, not just physically, but tactically as well,” said Staff Sgt. Jon Valdizan. “I thought it was great being able to represent my unit and compete alongside other, highly motivated Soldiers.”

St. Pierre said the event highlighted the unit's readiness and camaraderie.

“You could almost look at this as a championship type competition that really develops and also highlights all of the training we do throughout the year, while also bringing attention to the honor, traditions, and lineage of our units.”

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/27147>

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VDF OCS commissions four new officers

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Mother, son join 192d Wing together

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/26970>

ROTC cadets shoot at inaugural pistol championship

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Rhodes takes command of RTI's 2nd Battalion

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