

34th Civil Support Team trained, ready after formal evaluation

The Virginia National Guard's Fort Barfoot-based 34th Civil Support Team was evaluated as trained and mission capable after a Training Proficiency Evaluation Oct. 17 and 19, 2023, in Dinwiddie County, Virginia. The evaluation was conducted by U.S. Army North, which supervised the exercise and validated the unit's level of readiness.

"We are very proud of the men and women of the 34th CST," said Brig. Gen. Todd Hubbard, the VNG Director of the Joint Staff. "Their performance during this TPE reflects their ability to perform a very complex, technical mission with a high level of proficiency. The team demonstrated an ability to deploy at short notice in support of local, state or federal requirements within the commonwealth or anywhere in the nation."

The mission of the 34th CST is to support civil authorities in a domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive incident, and the evaluated tasks included deploying the team, establishing communications and medical support, conducting survey, technical decontamination and analytical functions as well as conducting interagency coordination.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/27445>



Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the Fort Barfoot-based 34th Civil Support Team conduct a training proficiency evaluation Oct. 17, 2023, in Dinwiddie County, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Jumper shares lessons in leadership with DMA mentees, mentors

Brig. Gen. Catherine M. Jumper, the Virginia National Guard Assistant Adjutant General - Air, provided remarks as the guest speaker for the Virginia Department of Military Affairs Workforce Development Mentoring Program Oct. 26, 2023, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/27446>

VNG NCO named to All-Guard Marathon Team, aims to snag BQ

In 2020, Staff Sgt. James A. Potteiger ran his first marathon in Richmond, Virginia. In May 2023, in Lincoln, Nebraska, he ran a 3:11:05 and snagged a spot on the All-Guard Marathon Team.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/27447>

Voices of the VaANG: Airman 1st Class April Bennett

Airman 1st Class April Bennett, a Virginia National Guard Airman assigned to 192nd Medical Group, 192nd Wing as a behavioral health technician, is highlighted in this edition of the Voices of the VaANG.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/27448>

192nd in 90 Seconds: October 2023 Edition

The change of command for the 192nd Wing from Col. Batterton to Col. Lange is the focus of a special edition of the "192nd in 90 Seconds" video for October 2023.

Watch the video at <https://ngpa.us/27425>

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VDF conducts “Highland Guardian 23” statewide readiness exercise

Members of the Virginia Defense Force conducted the “Highland Guardian 23” statewide readiness exercise Oct. 14, 2023, at multiple locations across Virginia. The exercise tested the VDF’s communications and access control capabilities as well as provided training opportunities on operations center augmentation and systems used to maintain common operating picture.

The exercise simulated a severe winter storm and how the VDF would support the Virginia National Guard’s role as a member of the state multi-agency response team, and VDF teams operated from their home station armories in Richmond, Fairfax, Warrenton, Winchester and Virginia Beach.

“Our goal for the exercise was to conduct safe operations at home station armories across the state incorporating our organic communications and access control capabilities in a simulated winter storm environment, and we accomplished our primary training objectives,” said Brig. Gen. (Va.) Justin P. Carlitti Sr., Virginia Defense Force commanding general. “The entire exercise was planned and executed by junior officers and noncommissioned officers which allowed VDF senior leaders to be on site at each location to provide immediate feedback and mentoring to command teams. The exercise helped improve on the core capabilities the Virginia National Guard expects the VDF to provide during response operations.”

In Fairfax, personnel assigned to the VDF’s 31st Cyber Battalion, 1st Regiment acted as the administrative “white cell” for the exercise distributing scenario inputs as well as conducting training on a web-based operations tracking software suite, explained Capt. (Va.) Michael Perini, deputy G3 operations officer.

VDF personnel operated high frequency radios at each location and were able to effectively communicate basic operational information as well as train new personnel on antenna set up, proper radio procedures and mission tracking.

In Richmond and Virginia Beach, access control teams set up simulated entry control points with role players to add realism to the training. The VDF’s Support Operations Group Training Support team plans to develop guidelines for more complex training scenarios when the VDF conducts their next statewide readiness exercise May 2024, Perini said.

Richmond also served as the simulated joint operations center for the exercise and provided a training opportunity for potential staff augmentation at the Virginia National Guard’s joint operations center at their headquarters at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.

Personnel working in the simulated JOC gained a better understanding about the entire state active duty emergency response process, Perini said.

“The company grade officers and senior enlisted personnel lead the way on these exercises,” Perini said. “With each iteration, we continue to add more complexities and challenges, and these junior officers and senior NCOs respond in kind every time. It is a privilege to watch the evolution occur.”

Compared to previous exercises, Highland Guardian 23



Members of the Virginia Defense Force conduct access control training during the Highland Guardian 23 statewide readiness exercise Oct. 14, 2023, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

expanded the training focus.

“In previous iterations of these exercises, the focal point was communication,” Perini said. “This version allowed for a more holistic development of mission essential training, covering communication, JOC augmentation and access control. These exercises thereby greatly augment the reliability of the VDF in emergency situations.”

The VDF is authorized by Title 44 of the Code of the Virginia as the all-volunteer reserve of the Virginia National Guard, and it serves as a force multiplier integrated into all Guard domestic operations.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/27449>

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VNG, Fort Barfoot host officials from Tajikistan

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/27353>

3647th Soldiers conduct maintenance ops during AT

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/27322>

Va. Army National Guard Holistic Health and Fitness

Read more at <https://va.ng.mil/H2F/>

Virginia Defense Force Official Web Site

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