

# Governor commends Virginia National Guard

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin commended the Virginia National Guard for the organization's service to commonwealth and country at a reception Jan. 17, 2024, hosted by the Virginia National Guard Association in Richmond, Virginia.

"I am in awe of what you do," Youngkin said. "I can only express one basic sentiment on behalf of 8.7 million Virginians, and that is one of deep gratitude. Thank you for what you do. Thank you for loving our Commonwealth of Virginia. Thank you for standing up for the freedoms and liberties we enjoy, and thank you and your families for the sacrifices you make on behalf of all of us."

He also thanked the members of the Virginia General Assembly present at the reception for all their work in support of Virginia's military and veterans.

Youngkin recognized how extraordinarily busy the Virginia National Guard has been over the last year.

"It follows an unprecedented deployment pace that was a reflection of the commitment and professionalism the VNG exhibits," he said.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28385>



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**Virginia National Guard News Headlines**

**Senior leaders join top VNG Soldiers, Airmen for GA visit**  
 Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and Command Chief Master Sergeant Kelly B. Reich, Virginia National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader, led a delegation of the VNG's top Soldiers and Airmen meeting their state elected representatives Jan. 17, 2024, in Richmond, Virginia.  
 Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28386>

**34th CERFP conducts collective training event at Fort Barfoot**  
 Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the 34th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear and High-Yield Explosive Enhanced Response Force Package, or CERFP, conducted a collective training event Jan. 5-7, 2024, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.  
 Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28388>

**Building Strong and Ready Teams training aids 529th Soldiers**  
 The Virginia Army National Guard Chaplain Corps conducted its first Building Strong and Ready Teams training Jan. 18, 2024, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia, for Soldiers assigned to the 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.  
 Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28387>

**Virginia Department of Veterans Services offers free resources**  
 The Virginia Department of Veterans Services connects veterans, transitioning service members, National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and their families to federal and state benefits, support, quality care and recognition they have earned.  
 Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28389>

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# 529th CSSB begins federal active duty deployment

Approximately 70 Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to Headquarters, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group marked the start of its federal active-duty mobilization with a departure ceremony Jan. 28, 2024, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Virginia Lt. Gov. Winsome Earle-Sears gave remarks at the event, as did Brig. Gen. Charles Martin Jr., the VNG Assistant Adjutant General - Army, and Lt. Col. Carlos Maldonado, commander of the 529th CSSB. Maldonado and Command Sgt. Maj. David Elliott Jr., the 529th CSSB command team, furled their organizational colors during the ceremony to signify the official start of the mobilization. They will unfurl the colors when they arrive in Poland and officially take responsibility for their mission.

"It is my distinct honor to be standing here today as the battalion commander of a great formation of Americans that are dedicated not only to their craft, but also to each other," said Maldonado at the ceremony. "My confidence in the Soldiers could not be higher. They have proven time and time again that they are ready to excel at any mission we are assigned. I am indebted to them for the sacrifice, dedication and professionalism that they show everyday."

The Troutville-based 29th Infantry Division Band performed ceremonial music at the departure, and members of the Virginia Defense Force volunteered their time to conduct traffic control. Previous commanders of the 529th were also in attendance, including Maj. Gen. Michelle Rose, Col. Dennis Rohler, Col. Juanita Rohler and retired Col. Mike Waterman.

The 529th troops will serve under the command of U.S. Army's 3rd Division Sustainment Brigade to provide sustainment command and control and support to forward-stationed U.S. and allied forces in the region. Their mission will be part of a rotation of forces conducting multinational training and operations with allies and regional security partners to increase military interoperability, build contingency response capabilities and deter adversaries in Europe.

The lieutenant governor spoke to the troops, encouraging them and reminding them of their bonds with each other.

"We are very grateful for your service, grateful that you volunteered to serve your country," said Earle-Sears. "We know you are a band of brothers. You will have each other's backs. Serve your country well, be strong and courageous."

"Please know that I am proud of each of you and for your demonstrated record of excellence," said Martin. "I'm grateful, as are your fellow citizens for your dedicated and selfless service. I look forward to hearing the great things your unit will achieve."

This is the fourth federal active-duty deployment for the 529th since being federally recognized in 2009, with previous deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq and Kuwait. The mobilization order is for a period of 365 days, but could be extended if there is an operational need.

A combat sustainment support battalion is a multifunctional logistics headquarters exercising mission command for assigned companies, teams and detachments to provide maintenance support as well as distribution of food, fuel, ammunition and other



Lt. Col. Carlos Maldonado and Command Sgt. Maj. David Elliott Jr., the command team for the Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, furl the unit's organizational colors Jan. 28, 2024, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

vital supplies. They expect to have supply, transportation and maintenance companies under their command, but additional units could be assigned to meet mission requirements.

"You have trained on individual and collective tasks that have prepared you for this moment," Martin told the deploying troops at the ceremony. "You have honed your skills at the Joint Readiness Training Center last year, and more recently at Fort Barfoot over the past two weeks. Be confident in your training and maintain the indomitable spirit that makes you the best Soldiers in the world."

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28384>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### 529th CSSB conducts pre-mobilization training

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/28281>

### MEDCOM hosts combat medic refresher training

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/28368>

### Saber, St. Lo Soldiers live fire 120mm mortars

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/28209>

### Chaplain Johnson opens Virginia Senate session

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/28245>

### 116th IBCT conducts Best Warrior Competition

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/28211>



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