

Governor, AG recognize outstanding performance at Military Ball

Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin delivered the keynote address at the 2024 Virginia National Guard Military Ball and Gala Feb. 24, 2024, in Richmond, Virginia, and helped recognize some of the VNG's top performers. Retired Maj. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, the Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, and Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, also spoke with attendees.

Youngkin and Ring presented Virginia Army National Guard top unit retention awards. They also recognized the Virginia Air National Guard's Outstanding Airmen for 2023 and VaANG units for readiness and retention.

"The whole purpose of tonight is to honor you," Youngkin said. "The whole purpose of this evening is to gather in recognition of all that you do. We've had a chance this evening to honor and acknowledge extraordinary work. I believe the recognition of the highest retention, the recognition of the ability to not just have extraordinary professionals, but to keep them, is quite unique."

Youngkin said the outstanding unit retention efforts reflect leadership.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/28862>



Virginia Governor Glenn Youngkin delivers the keynote address at the 2024 Virginia National Guard Military Ball and Gala Feb. 24, 2024, in Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Commonwealth Challenge graduates Class 60
 The Commonwealth Challenge Youth Academy graduated 68 cadets during a ceremony March 2, 2024, in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Retired Army Col. Everton E. Nevers, the Department of Military Affairs Chief Operations Officer, joined Jennifer D. Lanz, director of CCYA on stage to congratulate the graduates.
 Read more at <https://ngpa.us/28869>

VNG recognizes 7 Warrant Officer Candidate School graduates
 The Virginia Army National Guard celebrated the graduation of seven Soldiers from the 183 Regiment, Regional Training Institute's Warrant Officer Candidate School during a ceremony held March 3, 2024, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.
 Read more at <https://ngpa.us/28863>

Weidner succeeds Colomy as 192nd Operations Group commander
 Col. Andrew M. Weidner took command of the Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Operations Group, 192nd Wing from Col. Philip J. Colomy during a ceremony March 1, 2024, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia.
 Read more at <https://ngpa.us/28870>

Voices of the VaANG: Lt. Col. Delia Acuna, 192nd Medical Group
 This edition of Voices of the VaANG proudly introduces Lt. Col. Delia Acuna, 192nd Medical Group nurse practitioner, with the 192nd Wing, Virginia Air National Guard, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia.
 Read more at <https://ngpa.us/28866>

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529th CSSB takes responsibility for sustainment mission in Poland

The Virginia National Guard's Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion unfurled its organizational colors and took responsibility for logistics, maintenance, and supply missions from the U.S. Army Reserve's 787th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during a ceremony March 11, 2024, at Forward Operating Site Powidz, Poland.

"We are proud to continue sustaining operations [here]," said Lt. Col. Carlos Maldonado, the commander of the 529th. "To the Soldiers of Task Force Cavalier, our time is now. The opportunity is here. I have full confidence that you will continue to perform at the highest level. I am always proud and humbled to have the opportunity to stand here as 'Cavalier 6.'"

After the outgoing unit furled their colors, Maldonado and Command Sgt. Maj. David Elliott, the senior enlisted leader of the 529th CSSB, unfurled their colors, symbolizing the unit's arrival and assumption of the sustainment mission.

The 787th and 529th both deployed as part of a rotation of forces assigned to V Corps, supporting operations and training for collective defense and regional security in Europe. The Soldiers enable multinational training that increases military interoperability between the U.S. and its NATO allies and partners to deter aggression on the continent.

They serve under the 3rd Infantry Division's 3rd Division Sustainment Brigade, which leads a multi-composition force of Active Duty, Reserve and National Guard Soldiers providing critical support capabilities across as many as 13 countries.

"As the only rotational sustainment force assigned to V Corps, we contribute to our nation's steadfast presence here, reinforcing long-standing commitments on NATO's Eastern flank for collective defense and regional security," said Col. Jennifer McDonough, commander of the 3rd DSB, speaking to the two units assembled in the post chapel for the ceremony. "We are grateful for your service and sacrifices."

Known as Task Force Grizzly and led by Lt. Col. Jeffrey Hall and Command Sgt. Maj. Clint Halstead, the 787th CSSB colors now return to Dothan, Alabama. While deployed and headquartered at FOS Powidz, the battalion provided command and control of more than 600 Soldiers at six different forward operating sites throughout the Central European and Baltic nations.

The battalion managed hundreds of sustainment convoys and missions, traveling hundreds of thousands of kilometers, transporting hundreds of millions of dollars' worth of equipment and parts, and delivering millions of gallons of fuel. The unit employed a new Army concept of surge maintenance support to brigade combat teams, enhancing the readiness of units poised to respond to contingencies in the region.

The Soldiers managed multiple supply support activity points and collected logistics intelligence to inform future support missions.

"The mission set before you is fluid and complex," Hall said, offering advice to the incoming unit's Soldiers. "Stay flexible and stay focused. Never lose sight of that Soldier in the field that's awaiting that part, that piece of equipment, that fuel, food, or water."



Lt. Col. Carlos Maldonado and Command Sgt. Maj. David Elliott, the 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion command team, unfurl their unit colors during a transfer of authority ceremony March 11, 2024, in Powidz, Poland.

May your time here be as professionally rewarding and personally fulfilling as it was for us."

Dubbed Task Force Cavalier, the 529th marked their federal active-duty mobilization, bid farewell to their friends and families, and cased their colors in a ceremony at their home station in Virginia Beach on Jan. 28. The Soldiers then traveled to Fort Cavazos, Texas, for a collective training exercise to validate the unit's readiness for their deployed mission, concluding training on Feb. 16.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/28867>

MORE ON THE WEB

203rd RED HORSE ceremony honors fallen Airmen

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/28771>

DMA mentorship program graduates fourth class

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/28865>

Soldiers get behind the wheel during 88M Course

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/28864>

Soldiers from 9 states conduct funeral honors training

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/28824>

VNG crews provide aviation support to Canadian troops

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