

# 192nd Wing hosts ANG Classic Association Conference

The 192nd Wing hosted a two-day conference for Air National Guard classic association units June 25, 2024, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia, bringing together leaders from across the country to discuss challenges, best practices and to explore the future of these vital partnerships. Col. Brock E. Lange, 192nd Wing commander, led the event.

In attendance were commanders and senior leadership from the 141st Air Refueling Wing of the Washington ANG, the 131st Bomb Wing of the Missouri ANG, the 170th Group of the Nebraska ANG, the 108th Wing of the New Jersey ANG, and the 192nd Wing of the Virginia ANG.

There are nearly twenty classic associations in the ANG, including four wings. The classic association is a unique organizational structure combining active duty and National Guard personnel. It has been a key component of ANG integration since its inception in the late 1990s.

“Fifty percent of our wing is classic association,” noted Lange. “We started as an embedded association, but it’s evolved far beyond just cost savings.”

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/30293>



U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Bryan E. Salmon, right, Special Assistant to the Director of the Air National Guard, leads an extensive roundtable discussion at an Air National Guard Classic Association Conference on June 25, 2024, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### Fireworks return to Fort Barfoot after 18 years

Fort Barfoot personnel and citizens from across the region attended an Independence Day fireworks celebration July 2, 2024, at the Blackstone Army Airfield and Allan C. Perkinson Airport near Blackstone, Virginia. The event marked the return of fireworks to the installation for the first time in 18 years.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/30290>

### 192nd Security Forces Squadron sharpens skills during joint exercise

Virginia National Guard Airmen assigned to the 192nd Security Forces Squadron, 192nd Wing honed their combat readiness during joint exercise Bumbu Forge 2024, at Fort McCoy, Wisconsin.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/30294>

### 1710th TC conducts transportation mission during AT

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 1710th Transportation Company conducted a two-week line haul mission in support of the Army Materiel Command for their annual training May 30 - June 15, 2024.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/30291>

### Building Strong and Ready Teams event reconnects military couples

The Virginia Army National Guard Chaplain Corps conducted Building Strong and Ready Teams training June 21-23, 2024, in Williamsburg, Virginia, for Soldiers and family members of units who conducted annual training in Europe in 2024.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/30292>

## 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://go.usa.gov/xGmKG>

**Va. Defense Force**

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

## Join the Virginia National Guard Alumni Network

<https://go.usa.gov/xzGT3>

# 29th ID Band commemorates D-Day anniversary

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Troutville-based 29th Infantry Division Band conducted a unique and historic annual training in June 2024, helping commemorate the 80th anniversary of D-Day, both here in the United States as well as in Normandy, France, where a contingent of the band retraced the movements of their predecessors during World War II.

Led by Chief Warrant Officer 3 Donald Carlson, the 29th ID Band commander, nine musicians traveled to Normandy, France, where, over the course of eight days, they performed music at 22 different D-Day commemoration ceremonies, from the shores of Omaha Beach inland to Saint-Lô, all steeped in the 29th's WWII history, as well as the 29th ID Band's. In 1944, in the days following the initial invasion, the band served as litter bearers and assisted with mortuary affairs in addition to performing music to entertain Allied forces.

"I attended the 70th Anniversary of D-Day in 2014 and the lasting impact on me was that the French and British citizens are profoundly grateful for the U.S. Soldiers contribution to the liberation of Normandy, France, and Europe," said Carlson. "I wanted my Soldiers to experience that so that they could more fully understand the history of our unit, the 29th Division, and Virginia Army National Guard."

During the eight days the "Normandy Winds" spent performing in France, they supported ceremonies at the National Guard Memorial overlooking Omaha Beach in Vierville-sur-Mer and at the World Peace Statue in Grandcamp-Maisy, which included a performance at the Sergeant Frank Peregory Memorial. Peregory, a Virginia National Guard Soldier, was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor for heroic actions taken during the fighting.

The band also visited Saint-Lô, a town synonymous with the 29th Infantry Division and the Virginia National Guard. It was there, in preparations to liberate the town, where Maj. Thomas Howie was mortally wounded. Howie's remains would eventually be placed on the hood of a truck so he could be the first to enter Saint-Lô. A photo of his flag-draped remains atop rubble in the town would become famous, but because of regulations his name could not be released, so he became known as the "Major of Saint-Lô."

It was in Saint-Lô where the 29th ID Band, in 1944, began the tradition of playing the Beer Barrel Polka.

"The 29th ID Band was requested to play something uplifting and the tradition of performing of the "Beer Barrel Polka" emerged, serving as a much-needed respite from the horrors of war," said the band's Sgt. 1st Class Erin Casey.

Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, as well as Maj. Gen. Joseph DiNonno and Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy Hawley, the 29th ID command team, attended several of the band's performances in France.

"As time marches on and the ranks of those who experienced D-Day firsthand grow thinner, the importance of monuments like the National Guard Monument on Omaha Beach becomes even more pronounced," said Casey. "They serve not only as



**Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Troutville-based 29th Infantry Division Band perform a concert in France during the annual training in June 2024.**

physical markers of history but also as educational tools, ensuring that future generations understand and appreciate the sacrifices made by previous generations. The overwhelming support and appreciation from all the generations of France highlighted their dedication to remembering, honoring, and educating their children to continue that legacy."

Back in the United States, a 23-member ensemble, led by 1st Sgt. James Bradshaw, began their D-Day commemoration support during a concert at the Tuskegee Airmen National Historic Site in Tuskegee, Alabama, home of the first training facility for Black pilots in the U.S. Army Air Corps.

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/30289>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### Voices of the VaANG: Staff Sgt. Keiana J. Bales

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/30288>

### 429th Soldiers train at Camp Dodge, Iowa

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/30207>

### Fort Barfoot MATES receives M1 Abrams tank delivery

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/30224>

### Cyber Fortress 3.0 tests Virginia's cyber response plan

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/30252>

### VNG flight crews support Civil Air Patrol encampment

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/30251>



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