

VNG team makes strong showing at marksmanship competition

Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airman assigned to units across the Commonwealth made a strong showing at the Marksmanship Advisory Council Region II marksmanship sustainment exercise, with VNG teams taking second place overall at the competition Aug. 23 - 25, 2024, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

The VNG Combat Marksmanship team placed in the top three of every match, having five members in the top ten in every individual event and placing in the top three of every team event. Sgt. Michael McClaskie and Staff Sgt. Colin Ryan finished in first and second respectively in the individual pistol aggregate, while Sgt. 1st Class Jefferey Ice and Ryan finished first and second in the individual rifle aggregate. McClaskie and Ryan also finished first and second in the combined pistol and rifle aggregate.

Competing against shooters from states that are designated from Region II, which includes Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, New Jersey and Washington D.C. National Guards, Virginia's competitors used their training and skill to rise to the challenge.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3XoMKHS>



Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airman make a strong showing at the Marksmanship Advisory Council Region II marksmanship sustainment exercise Aug. 23 - 25, 2024, at Fort Indiantown Gap, Pennsylvania.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

VNG senior enlisted leaders meet with Finnish counterparts

Virginia National Guard senior enlisted leadership traveled to Finland Aug. 19-23, 2024, to collaborate with members of the Finnish Defence Forces on a plan for joint enlisted training and exercise and development for 2025 to 2027.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3MFYWPt>

St. Lo Battalion squads compete for "Chubby Cup"

Ten 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 3rd annual Carl "Chubby" Proffitt Jr. Squad Competition Sept. 7, 2024, at Fort Walker, Virginia.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/4eIYpQ>

116th IBCT provides OPFOR support for JRTC rotation

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team provided opposing force support during Joint Readiness Training Center rotation 24-09 July 8 - Aug. 3, 2024, at Fort Johnson, Louisiana.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3Zmayiq>

Antiterrorism Officer Course trains Soldiers, Airmen, civilians

The Virginia Army National Guard Antiterrorism Program hosted an Antiterrorism Officer Basic Course Aug. 19- 23, 2024, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3Trprfn>

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203rd RED HORSE enhances readiness through deployment for training

Airmen with the 203rd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, 192nd Wing, Virginia Air National Guard participated in a deployment for training July 14-26, 2024, at Lajes Field, Terceira Island, Azores, Portugal. Renowned for its ability to deploy into austere environments and construct vital infrastructure, the 203rd RED HORSE completed various renovation and reconstruction projects during the DFT.

As a self-sustaining unit, the 203rd RED HORSE specializes in constructing vertical and horizontal infrastructure, utilities, and transportation facilities. Their elite skills enable them to act as a sustainment force capable of repairing and improving base facilities wherever they deploy. During this DFT, the team focused on refurbishing numerous facilities' components, significantly improving the working conditions at Lajes Field.

Airmen with the 203rd RED HORSE were crucial in accomplishing a wide range of tasks that required elite craftsmanship during the DFT. They were responsible for renovating and repairing more than 25 windows throughout a 30,000-square-foot facility, constructing a critical separation wall for an industrial shop, repairing and finishing over 13,000 square feet of office space, and completing more than 52 work orders in conjunction with the Lajes Field civil engineers. These efforts enhanced administrative workspace, industrial shop facilities and morale functions across the base.

"Our team faced a variety of logistical challenges during this deployment, but we adapted and overcame them by shifting priorities," said Maj. Oscar Alonso, 203rd RED HORSE director of operations. "This was a valuable opportunity for our team to experience real-world challenges associated with infrastructure repair and construction operations, and I'm proud of how we performed."



Airmen with the 203rd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers perform renovation operations July 14-26, 2024, in Azores, Portugal.

The DFT was not just about completing the mission - it also provided the Airmen with critical training in multiple new disciplines. They embraced the U.S. Air Force's Multi-Capable Airman concept with personnel from different Air Force specialty codes taking on tasks outside their usual scope and completing more than 1,000 training hours in cross-functional areas. Communications specialists were involved in sheet metal work and repairs, while personnel specialists participated in painting and coating operations.

Their cross-functional efforts exemplified the adaptability and teamwork of the 203rd RED HORSE.

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3XjiCxH>



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MORE ON THE WEB

VDF commander shares guidance on wellness program

Read more at <https://bit.ly/3B1f3EG>

Gillis retires after more than 41 years of service

Photos on Flickr at <https://bit.ly/4dT9Ihz>

MTU helps improve 91st Cyber Brigade's rifle skills

Photos on Flickr at <https://bit.ly/3AYyk9T>

192nd Wing and 113th Wing train on E-SPEK

Photos on Flickr at <https://bit.ly/4ehal4f>

192nd Wing hosts 2024 Family Day

Photos on Flickr at <https://bit.ly/4gmnLxv>



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