

# Soldiers, Airmen remembered at Public Safety Memorial

Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen helped honor those being remembered at the Virginia Public Safety Foundation's 10th Annual Commemorative Ceremony Sept. 14, 2024, at the Virginia Public Safety Memorial in Richmond, Virginia. The ceremony honors nearly 1,000 who lost their lives in service to the Commonwealth of Virginia, including Guardsmen, first responders and other civil servants. This year's ceremony marked the 10th anniversary of the memorial.

VNG senior leaders were among dozens who helped read aloud each of the names of those memorialized during a roll call. Brig. Gen. Charles Martin Jr., commander of the VaARNG, Brig. Gen. Christopher Batterton, Assistant Adjutant General for Air Strategic Initiatives, Col. Kurt Kobernick, VaARNG Chief of Staff, and Command Chief Master Sergeant Kelly B. Reich, the VNG senior enlisted leader all participated in the roll call.

"It was an honor to participate in the Commonwealth Public Safety Memorial ceremony and recognize 964 fallen public safety heroes, of which 32 were Virginia National Guard service members," said Martin.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p8v6368>



Lost Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are remembered at the Virginia Public Safety Foundation's 10th Annual Commemorative Ceremony Sept. 14, 2024, at the Virginia Public Safety Memorial in Richmond, Virginia.

**Virginia National Guard News Headlines**

**Pioneers "Push for Life" during Suicide Awareness Month**  
 Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 276th Engineer Battalion have knocked out nearly 22,200 pushups as of Sept. 23, 2024, in support of the Virginia National Guard Risk Reduction and Suicide Prevention's and Integrated Primary Prevention Workforce's "Push for Life Challenge."  
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/26fpxubn>

**VNG celebrates commissioning of 13 new lieutenants**  
 The Virginia National Guard celebrated the commissioning of 13 new lieutenants Sept. 15, 2024, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia. The event marked the end of Officer Candidate School for the candidates enrolled in Class 66, 67A and 67B.  
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/4vu2an63>

**192nd demonstrates new mobile kitchen at ANG Congressional Day**  
 Airmen assigned to the 192nd Support Squadron, 192nd Wing demonstrated the capabilities of their new mobile kitchen during the cookies for congressional delegates event Sept. 6, 2024, at the Air National Guard Congressional Day.  
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/bdwsy69h>

**VNG NCO reflects on her path from border town to recruiting success**  
 Staff Sgt. Diana Hudson spent her earliest years in a rural Mexican border town, then emigrated to the United States, served as a Marine, started a family, earned an undergraduate degree and, became one of the VaARNG's top recruiters.  
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/35sdd8nt>

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## 1030th Soldiers travel to South Korea for Exercise Ulchi Freedom Shield

Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Gate City-based 1030th Transportation Battalion travelled to the Republic of Korea to participate in the multi-national exercise Ulchi Freedom Shield Aug. 16 - 29, 2024, at U.S. Army Garrison Humphreys, Republic of Korea.

Twenty-five Soldiers assigned to the 1030th's Headquarters Detachment and other units within the battalion traveled overseas for the exercise. Ulchi Freedom Shield is a joint exercise between South Korea and the United States, and also includes service members from 12 other United Nations member states. According to a U.S. Forces Korea news release, the exercise helps "fortify the combined defense posture and enhance Alliance response capabilities against a spectrum of security threats. It will feature live, virtual, constructive and field-based training, engaging personnel from the military services and other federal agencies."

The 1030th was integrated with USFK and Combined Arms Command, with Soldiers performing a variety of logistics-related missions, including managing commodities like petroleum and oil, construction materials and ammunition. Other missions the 1030th participated in included sealift, airlift, rail and mortuary affairs.

It's the second year in a row the 1030th has participated in Ulchi Freedom Shield.

"Last year, 1030th augmented the 19th Expeditionary Sustainment Command with a heavy non-combatant evacuation operations focus," said Maj. Dax Farnsworth. "In 2024, we integrated with several staff sections within the USFK J4, as well as assisting the Combined Force C4, performing a variety of sustainment operations. Having the majority of personnel participate in 2023 allowed the unit to quickly orient to the environment, establish comms with active-duty counterparts and integrate quickly to the operation."

Despite the long travel time and scope of the multi-nation exercise, the contingent of 1030th Soldiers performed admirably, according to Command Sgt. Maj. Ricky Barley, senior enlisted leader for the battalion.

"The Soldiers were able to work at a much higher level than what they are used to," said Barley. "This mission helps them better understand the big picture, and also they can take the knowledge and experience back to the unit level."

"There were some long days and nights but overall, the morale stayed high," said Sgt. 1st Class Jason Colburn. "The Soldiers worked well as a team while learning from each other and building alliances that will last a lifetime."

With the large-scale exercise involving multiple countries as well as multiple training locations, keeping track of the 1030th's personnel presented one of the bigger challenges of the mission, according to Maj. Derrick Hall, 1030th officer-in-charge.

"One of the main challenges was accountability," Hall explained. "We were assigned to four different sections, working in three different locations. We placed an OIC/NCOIC in each group, utilized the buddy-system, and created a group chat where



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we could all communicate with each other."

In addition to exercise-related missions, the Soldiers were able to experience some of South Korea's culture and sights. One highlight was being able to see the Korean Demilitarized Zone, the buffer between the heavily-fortified borders of South and North Korea.

"Highlights were working with other branches of the military and experiencing the food and culture," said Sgt. Veronica Gilliam. "Also, visiting the DMZ and being out of the country doing something other than the normal annual training."

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p8t4dh4>

### MORE ON THE WEB

#### Dickenson promoted to sergeant major

Photos on Flickr at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBJHC4>

#### NC Guard Soldiers live fire tanks at Fort Barfoot

Photos on Flickr at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBJxrM>

#### 34th CST, law enforcement conduct joint exercise

Photos on Flickr at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBHJdy>

#### Ford succeeds Price as Red Dragons commander

Photos on Flickr at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBHE56>

#### HART, first responders practice rescue hoists

Photos on Flickr at <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjBHkHS>



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