

Holiday luncheon recognizes, thanks DMA employees

Retired Col. Everton Nevers, the Virginia Department of Military Affairs Chief of Staff, and Col. James C. Shaver Jr., the Fort Barfoot garrison commander, recognized and thanked Virginia Department of Military Affairs employees for their hard work and dedication during a holiday luncheon Dec. 2, 2024, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

“It is an honor to serve as the DMA Chief of Staff,” Nevers said. “I am proud of the men and women that come to work each and every day to perform their duties with such pride and commitment to excellence.”

The Virginia Department of Military Affairs is the state agency that provides leadership and administrative support to the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard and Virginia Defense Force. DMA plans, coordinates, maintains situational awareness and employs VaARNG, VaANG and VDF forces for homeland security and homeland defense.

“The DMA employees’ work, often ‘behind the scenes,’ is critical to the success of the Virginia Army and Air National Guard,” Nevers said.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/ycyndcrm>



Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, presents awards to three Virginia Department of Military Affairs employees for their service to DMA Dec. 2, 2024, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

192nd Wing appoints new dedicated crew chiefs
 The 192nd Wing, Virginia Air National Guard, recognized 11 Airmen with the 192nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, 192nd Operations Group, for their technical knowledge, initiative and leadership during a Dedicated Crew Chief ceremony Nov. 16, 2024, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/bdd5tr78>

VNG’s Counterdrug Task Force supports Red Ribbon Week events
 Virginia National Guard Soldiers joined local, state and federal agencies to help educate and reinforce the importance of a drug-free lifestyle during Red Ribbon Week events at schools across central Virginia Oct. 24-30, 2024.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p92xh76>

91st Cyber Brigade hosts VMI cadets during drill weekend
 Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 91st Cyber Brigade hosted Virginia Military Institute cadets during their drill weekend Nov. 16 and 17, 2024, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/mtr6m9bh>

Voices of the VaANG: Senior Airman Emma Staten
 This edition of the Voices of the VaANG introduces Senior Airman Emma Staten, a geospatial analyst with the 192nd Intelligence Squadron, 192nd Wing, Virginia Air National Guard.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yckuvypr>

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Va. Defense Force
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Join the Virginia National Guard Alumni Network
<https://go.usa.gov/xzGT3>

Secretary Crenshaw visits VDF during training weekend

Retired U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, visited members of the Virginia Defense Force during a multi-unit training assembly Nov. 2, 2024, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia. Crenshaw learned more about the organization and thanked the VDF personnel for volunteering their time to conduct training.

Crenshaw started the visit meeting members of the VDF Headquarters staff.

"I recognize that this is a commitment," Crenshaw told the group. "You are volunteering, and you all recognize the value you can bring to our Virginia National Guard."

He said he is always impressed with those who are willing to serve, especially with all the things people have going on in their lives. He acknowledged that spending the weekend focusing on developing their talents, VDF personnel were helping make the National Guard more effective.

"It just really moves me that we have men and women who commit themselves to doing something like this and supporting our commonwealth," he said.

Crenshaw next visited the VDF's 31st Cyber Battalion and received an information brief. He acknowledged the importance of the VDF's cyber capabilities, adding to what the Virginia National Guard provides for cyber defense.

"Thank you for what you do," he said. "Keep that commitment and keep that motivation because we need you."

While visiting communications training, Crenshaw learned about the different backgrounds of VDF personnel, with some having served in the different branches of the military while others are serving in uniform for the first time.

"Thank you for what you do," Crenshaw said. "You are doing it because you want to do it, doing it because you think it's important that you show up, that you learn new technology that's available, because it does enhance our ability as a Commonwealth to be able to deliver if needed."

Brig. Gen. (Va.) Rich Diddams, Commander of the VDF, shared the feedback Crenshaw provided.

"Secretary Crenshaw told me he was very impressed with what he saw today," Diddams said. "He said the VDF is a great return on investment for the commonwealth and sees the extraordinary value in the capabilities the VDF provides to augment the National Guard. Now we have to challenge ourselves, continue to build and improve our skills and maintain a high level of professionalism in everything we do."

Diddams said he has a debt of gratitude to the VDF troops for what they are doing and commended them for their contributions to the Commonwealth of Virginia. He also asked everyone to go home and thank their families for their vital support to the VDF's mission.

Training conducted over the three days of the MUTA included land navigation, point of distribution operation, officer and non-commissioned officer professional development and wellness, said Maj. (Va.) Michael Perini, the VDF's G3 operations and



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training officer. VDF personnel also conducted classroom training, including instruction on the Statewide Agencies Radio System and Barrett Radio packages.

Six VDF personnel and two Virginia National Guard Soldiers passed the Federal Communication Commission amateur radio license exam administered by the Virginia Defense Force Radio Group, qualifying them for the entry-level Technician class license. VDF personnel who passed the exam are now authorized to wear the "Technician" tab on their uniforms.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yp47zny2>

MORE ON THE WEB

Howlett announced as new VDF senior enlisted leader

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/4wfaaxyk>

529th CSSB Soldiers return to Virginia

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/59c8p6fs>

Fort Barfoot hosts second annual Turkey Trot

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/2s3r2ckk>

Caroline HS JROTC cadets tour VNG's aviation facility

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/yspwxax8j>

HART trains on helicopter rescue in Nelson County

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/y46632as>



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