

Martin takes command of VaARNG from Gallagher

Col. Charles B. Martin Jr. was promoted to brigadier general and formally took command of the Virginia Army National Guard from Brig. Gen. K. Weedon Gallagher during a change of command ceremony Jan. 6, 2024, at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.

Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, presided over the traditional exchange of organizational colors symbolizing the transfer of command from Gallagher to Martin as the Virginia National Guard's Assistant Adjutant General - Army. The 29th Infantry Division Band performed ceremonial music for the event.

"Please join me in congratulating Col. Martin on his selection as the next Assistant Adjutant General – Army," said Ring. "He is a proven leader who brings a broad range of experience including domestic mobilizations in support of Operation Noble Eagle and a combat deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He has served as the Chief of the Joint Staff since January 2023 and in command and staff positions at every echelon within the Virginia National Guard."

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28191>



Brig. Gen. Charles B. Martin Jr. formally takes command of the Virginia Army National Guard from Brig. Gen. K. Weedon Gallagher during a change of command ceremony Jan. 6, 2024, at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

BAAF employees honored by Army National Guard

The Army National Guard honored two employees of the Blackstone Army Airfield near Blackstone, Virginia, in December 2023 for being best in the ARNG. Walter Tisdale was named ARNG Category 1 Airfield Manager of the Year, and John Olson was named Air Traffic Controller of the Year for 2023.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28192>

DMA recognizes state employees during luncheon

Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and retired Brig. Gen. Walt Mercer, the outgoing Virginia Department of Military Affairs Chief Operations Officer, thanked DMA state employees during a DMA recognition luncheon and holiday social Dec. 5, 2023, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28193>

VNG conducts medical evacuation exchange in Tajikistan

Virginia National Guard Soldiers conducted a medical evacuation tactics exchange with the Republic of Tajikistan Dec. 4-9, 2023, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28195>

National Guard Soldiers learn funeral honors fundamentals

Virginia and North Carolina National Guard Soldiers learned the finer points of rendering honors to military veterans during Level 1 funeral honors training Dec. 11-15, 2023, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28194>

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>

185th COS cuts ribbon on new HQs facility

The Virginia Air National Guard's 185th Cyberspace Operations Squadron, 192nd Operations Group, 192nd Wing, held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of its state-of-the-art cyberspace facility Dec. 1, 2023, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia. This milestone begins a new chapter for the history of the 185th COS, also known as "the Bats," and marks the 192nd Wing's first purpose-built structure since its move from Sandston to Langley in 2007.

Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, Adjutant General of Virginia, Col. Brock E. Lange, 192nd Wing commander, and Chief Master Sgt. Sean J. Fretwell, 192nd Wing command chief, joined the youngest Bat, a 185th COS senior airman, in front of the building for the official ceremony as the youngest Bat cut the ribbon.

"Throughout its history, the lineage of the 185th Cyber Operations Squadron has shown it to be a unit in a constant state of action," said the squadron's designated historian during the ceremony. "As the 185th Aero Squadron, the unit was formed during the infancy of aerial combat and saw action in the skies of the First World War. This established a legacy of adaptability and perseverance in the face of adversity that is still embraced by cyber operators of the modern "Bats" who stand ready to defend our nation's information systems... This new building solidifies our place in the future of Air Force operations, and it is very special to unveil our new home, co-located with our original WWI unit, the 1st Pursuit Group, now the 1st Operations Group and our close Total Force Integration partner."

The squadron's historian recounted the history of the Bats, and Ring emphasized the history of the Virginia National Guard, dating back to 1607 when Citizen-Soldiers formed militias to defend the Jamestown settlement.

"Within the tradition of our Air National Guard and our U.S. Air Force, as we talk about the Total Force, multi-component integration, we are part of that important fabric of Citizen-Soldiers that are ready to stand and to be always ready and always there," said Ring. "And nowhere more do we see that than within emerging mission sets like cyberspace operations."

Ring said the VaANG has a deep tradition of excellence, not only within the commonwealth, but also within national mission sets. That tradition showed as the 185th went from initial operational capability to full operational capability onto federal mission sets in support of the national cyber mission force.

"For the men and women of the Bats, thank you for the mission that you do, thank you for the mission that you've been doing, but most importantly thank you for what you're going to be doing in support of the security of our nation and commonwealth," Ring said.

Since 2017, when the Bats were reconstituted, this will be their fourth and final home. As a tenant unit at JBLE, the 192nd Wing has relied on its host unit, the 633rd Air Base Wing, for providing work spaces for each of the 192nd Wing's groups and squadrons. Oftentimes, these spaces were temporarily leased, leading to units having to relocate multiple times. The 185th COS building is the



The 185th Cyberspace Operations Squadron, 192nd Operations Group, 192nd Wing, holds a ribbon cutting ceremony for the grand opening of its state-of-the-art cyberspace facility Dec. 1, 2023, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia.

first to be built and owned on the installation by the 192nd Wing.

"We move around a lot, that's part of the deal," said Lange. "But they don't have to move anymore. They can now focus on getting after the mission. This is also a big deal because we are putting down roots. I can't overstate the importance of place in the identity of an organization's culture. You must have a place. If you are just an organization, without somewhere to call your home, it is never truly going to take that next step to being a highly effective lethal organization."

Read more: <https://ngpa.us/28038>

MORE ON THE WEB

529th CSSB Soldiers conduct weapons qualification

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/28204>

34th CERFP conducts collective training at Fort Barfoot

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/28190>

229th MPs team up with DVS for job fair in Hanover

Photos on Flickr at <https://ngpa.us/28147>

Voices of the VaANG: Staff Sgt. Shomari Montague

Read more at <https://ngpa.us/28206>

Video: 192nd in 90 Seconds December 2023

Watch the video at <https://ngpa.us/28201>



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard

