

VNG shifting resources to Southwest Virginia

The Virginia National Guard alerted approximately 30 Soldiers Feb. 12, 2025, to mobilize in the Southwest Virginia area to provide chain saw teams for clearing debris from roads and heavy-duty tactical vehicles for transport through heavy snow or high water. Two UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters equipped with rescue hoist capabilities have also been alerted to deploy.

A team of about 15 Soldiers already staged in the Southwest Virginia area will remain in place to support potential response operations. The 45 Soldiers providing debris reduction and transportation capabilities and the Black Hawk are expected to be in place by end of the day Feb. 13.

The VNG initially staged approximately 50 personnel in Warrenton, Bowling Green and Rocky Mount for snow response efforts Feb. 10 and those teams are standing down.

VNG UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crews and Chesterfield Fire & Emergency Medical Services rescue technicians form the Virginia Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team to provide rotary wing aviation hoist capabilities and aerial rescue evacuation. Four VNG Soldiers and three Chesterfield techs make up each HART crew.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yckpsh8b>



A Virginia National Guard Soldier assigned to the 1033rd Engineer Company trains on chain saws for possible severe weather response operations Feb. 12, 2025, in Cedar Bluff, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

203rd RED HORSE marks 40 years of excellence
 The Virginia Air National Guard's 203rd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers celebrated its 40th anniversary Jan. 12, 2025, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia, marking a legacy of unparalleled service and dedication.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p8baxwx>

Quinn succeeds Shaver as Fort Barfoot garrison commander
 Lt. Col. Eric Quinn assumed command of Fort Barfoot from Col. James C. Shaver Jr. during a change of command ceremony Feb. 1, 2025, at Fort Barfoot, Virginia.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p8b2xzv>

Moore to succeed Lake as 116th IBCT commander
 Col. Arthur S. Moore will succeed Col. Jared D. Lake as the commander of the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team according to an announcement made Jan. 23, 2025, by the Adjutant General of Virginia.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/33dn8yay>

Maj. Gen. Rose caps off more than 3 decades of service
 Maj. Gen. Michelle M. Rose, Army Materiel Command assistant deputy commanding general for National Guard Affairs, closed the chapter on her 35-year Army career at a ceremony held Feb. 7, 2025, at Fort Gregg-Adams, Virginia.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/5n7d35zx>

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VaANG recognizes excellence at annual awards ceremony

The Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Wing held its annual awards ceremony to celebrate the dedication and achievements of its members across various categories Feb. 1, 2025, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia.

"The Outstanding Airman of the Year program is a prestigious award that recognizes top-performing Airmen within the Virginia Air National Guard," said Chief Master Sgt. Sean J. Fretwell, 192nd Wing command chief. "The program is designed to honor fellow Airmen who have demonstrated exceptional leadership, job performance and community involvement, and who embody our vision for the commonwealth citizen Airmen."

The keynote address delivered by Brig. Gen. Catherine M. Jumper, VaANG commander, praised the recipients for their unwavering commitment to service and contribution to the culture of continuous improvement.

"In this wing, excellence is really easy to find," said Jumper. "Culture is a really difficult thing to get right. Many people will tell you the leader defines the culture... and the fact is I really believe that every single Airman in the VaANG contributes to the culture that sets us apart from other units."

The following Airmen were recognized as the VaANG's Outstanding Airmen of the Year for 2024:

- Outstanding Airman of the Year: Staff Sgt. Eleanor Warren, 192nd Operations Group
- Outstanding Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year: Tech. Sgt. Kadie Harris, 192nd Maintenance Group
- Outstanding Senior NCO of the Year: Senior Master Sgt. Zachary Enke, 192nd Mission Support Group
- Outstanding First Sergeant of the Year: Master Sgt. Corey Hayes, 192nd OG
- Outstanding Company Grade Officer of the Year: Capt. Jade Petersen, 192nd MSG
- Outstanding Field Grade Officer of the Year: Maj. Sean Schiess, 192nd OG

Warren was also awarded the 2025 VaANG's Overall Outstanding Airman of the Year.

The ceremony celebrated exceptional individuals and affirmed the excellence and readiness of the citizen Airmen who drive the VaANG forward. Jumper recognized the collective efforts and role each member plays in fulfilling the mission.

"Our 2025 VIP memo highlights the characteristics of the citizen Airmen who serve the commonwealth, each one of you sitting in this room who are elite, empowered and effective," said Jumper. "It challenges every Airman in the VaANG to be doing something to make yourself or other people around you more ready, more lethal or a better leader."

The 192nd Wing's Top III Council presented its inaugural Tip of the Spear Award to Tech. Sgt. Enock Prempeh, 192nd Communications Flight. This newly established award recognizes Airmen and junior noncommissioned officers who truly embody Airmanship and warrior ethos both on and off duty.

Three awards were presented on behalf of the Virginia Adjutant



Master Sgt. Jorge Mazariegos accepts the 2025 Virginia Air National Guard Overall Outstanding Airman of the Year Award on behalf of Staff Sgt. Eleanor Warren Feb. 1, 2025, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia.

General, Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, recognizing the efforts for readiness, retention and innovation.

The 192nd Intelligence Squadron received the Adjutant General's Air Readiness Trophy which recognizes the VaANG unit with the best overall readiness.

The 192nd Aircraft Maintenance Squadron received the Adjutant General's Air Retention Trophy.

Senior Master Sgt. Patrick Cornish received the Adjutant General's Innovation Award recognizing an individual whose innovation positively impacts the VaANG and the U.S. Air Force.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/ycknxh69>

MORE ON THE WEB

The Virginia Veterans Network

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/y67bwj7r>

529th Soldiers receive Governor's National Service Medal

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/kd5nrafw>

529th CSSB welcomes new commander

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

VaARNG celebrates opening of Chantilly storefront

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/5hexsum5>

SMR hosts military funeral honors training

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/37sfjf75>

