

Hawley takes responsibility as VaARNG CSM

Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy M. Hawley took responsibility as the Virginia Army National Guard State Command Sergeant Major from Command Sgt. Maj. Irving N. Reed Jr. during a ceremony March 1, 2025, at the Virginia National Guard Sgt. Bob Slaughter Headquarters at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.

Brig. Gen. Charles B. Martin Jr., Commander of the Virginia Army National Guard, presided over the ceremony which included an exchange of colors representing the change of responsibility from Reed to Hawley as the VaARNG's senior noncommissioned officer.

Reed was also recognized for retiring with more than 38 years of service.

"I'm privileged to be a part of today's change of responsibility ceremony which is rich in symbolism, history and tradition, which illustrates the importance a commander places upon the position of a senior NCO in a formation," Martin said. "It's the senior NCO more than any other who sets the example for other Soldiers to follow and is responsible for good order and discipline among the troops."

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/bdz4x5cs>



Command Sgt. Maj. Timothy M. Hawley takes responsibility as the Virginia Army National Guard State Command Sergeant Major from Command Sgt. Maj. Irving N. Reed Jr. during a ceremony March 1, 2025, in Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Soldiers participate in Building Strong and Ready Teams training

Virginia National Guard Soldiers and senior leaders assigned to Joint Force Headquarters participated in Building Strong and Ready Teams training conducted by the Virginia Army National Guard Chaplain Corps March 1-2, 2025, at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/4aj8t87w>

Nye to succeed Reich as VNG command senior enlisted leader

Chief Master Sgt. John F. Nye will succeed Chief Master Sgt. Kelly B. Reich as the Virginia National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader according to an announcement made Feb. 28, 2025.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/3wdp3xae>

91st Cyber Brigade direct commissions cybersecurity veteran as LTC

The Virginia National Guard direct-commissioned Robert M. Lee to the rank of lieutenant colonel in an appointment ceremony March 1, 2025, at the 91st Cyber Brigade headquarters at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p828axa>

VNG, Finland participate in Arctic Interest Council conference

The Virginia National Guard Management Group, in coordination with the Virginia National Guard, hosted the National Guard Arctic Interest Council annual conference Feb. 11 - 12, 2025, in Springfield, Virginia.

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

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134th Chaplain Detachment supports 1st ID at NTC

Three Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Fort Barfoot-based 134th Chaplain Detachment traveled to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, Jan. 17- 31, 2025, where they provided chaplain support to the Fort Riley-based 1st Infantry Division during its NTC training rotation.

Maj. Will Cochrane and Sgt. 1st Class Christina McDermott, who are organic to the 134th, were augmented by Capt. David Porter, the 116th Brigade Combat Team chaplain.

While there, they embedded with the 11ID chaplain section, where they focused on information flow with other unit ministry teams on the battlefield and ensuring systems and processes were followed.

“This was definitely a learning experience for myself,” McDermott said. “There are some tools and warfighter products that we’ve maintained and want to take back with us. It’s very similar to how the 29th Infantry Division prepped for a deployment a few years ago. But our chaplain section wasn’t as involved as here with 1st ID so I’m looking to take that back to Virginia.”

“There is not a lot of difference between how active duty and Army National Guard prepare for deployment,” Porter said. “Active-duty tempo will be a lot more active but in terms of a pre-deployment cycle, this is very similar to what a lead up to a deployment looks and feels like.”

The 134th Soldiers were originally staged at Marine Corps Logistics Base Barstow - Yermo Annex, where they integrated into the division chaplain section at the rear command post. Eventually the command post moved to NTC as part of the exercise and the chaplain section continued coordinating religious support activities and movements for unit ministry teams below them, at the brigade level, while moving and setting up at a new location.

“We really learned how a division chaplain section operates,” Cochrane said. “We had several brigades below us and III Corps above us.”

Cochrane explained that anytime an active-duty division deploys, they bring in a chaplain detachment to support their division.



Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 134th Chaplain Detachment pose with Soldiers from the 1st Infantry Division chaplain section in January 2025 at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.



Maj. Will Cochrane, Sgt. 1st Class Christina McDermott and Capt. David Porter pose in front of a rock formation in January 2025 at the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California.

Those detachments help fill the gaps that exist through teamwork, collaboration and building relationships.

“We’re talking multiple units, multiple movements and multiple phases of operations,” Porter said. “I have not had that level of exposure so it has been extremely valuable.”

The desolate terrain and cold nights made the training even more realistic, and the entire mission proved valuable.

“I’ve deployed twice as a chaplain and it felt like a real deployment,” Cochrane said. “Being in that environment is much different than home station.”

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p9hdyx6>

MORE ON THE WEB

The Virginia Veterans Network

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

116th Soldiers conduct force-on-force training

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/3n7c2a83>

88M students tackle vehicle obstacle course at Fort Barfoot

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/3kx8em2c>

VNG celebrates graduation of 8 from WOCS

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/s269dwne>

VNG Soldiers conduct FTX during Arctic Forge 25

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/2p8ufumz>



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