

VNG reconfirms focus on sexual assault awareness

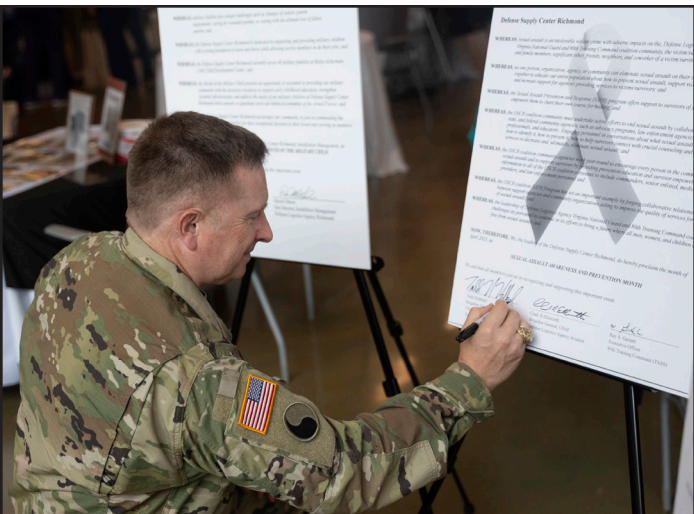
Brig. Gen. Todd Hubbard, Virginia National Guard Director of the Joint Staff, signed a proclamation designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month April 2, 2025, at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia. The proclamation reaffirms the VNG's commitment to promoting a culture of dignity, respect and accountability, and focuses on this year's theme of "Step Forward: Prevent. Report. Advocate."

"While this month shines a spotlight on these issues, the VNG's resiliency efforts continue year-round," said Hubbard. "Our participation in Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month underscores the Virginia National Guard's commitment to resiliency, the wellness of our people and, ultimately, the readiness of our forces."

Brig. Gen. Chad Ellsworth, Commanding General of DLA Aviation, gave remarks during a ceremony, sharing why these commitments are so important.

"Having had a family member that was a victim, I understand what this really means, not only to our community here, but to our nation and around the world," Ellsworth said.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p876nyv>



Brig. Gen. Todd Hubbard, Virginia National Guard Director of the Joint Staff, signs a proclamation designating April as Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month April 2, 2025, at Defense Supply Center Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

29th ID D-Day veteran accounted for after nearly 81 years
 The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency announced that U.S. Army Sgt. Ivor D. Thornton, 34, killed during World War II, was accounted for March 10, 2025. In the Summer of 1944, Thornton was assigned to Company H, 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regimental Combat Team, 29th Infantry Division.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yfhhcdmt>

VNG Youth Program kicks off Month of the Military Child
 April is Month of the Military Child and the Virginia National Guard Youth Program hosted a MOMC kickoff event March 29, 2025, at the Virginia Air & Space Science Center in Hampton, Virginia.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p9x32k9>

VNG History Report: Virginia Air Guard gets mobilized in 1951
 In 1951, the Virginia Air Guard mobilized for the first time. Today, the Virginia National Guard History Program uncovers wire messages which tell the story of the 149th Fighter Squadron's P-47 fighters call to duty during the Korean War.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/33233rxc>

Real ID soon required for VNG installation access
 Visitors to military installations including Fort Barfoot and Defense Supply Center Richmond will need to present a Real ID for access beginning May 7, 2025. The change is the implementation of the Real ID Act passed by Congress.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yckvdbuy>

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Join the Virginia National Guard Alumni Network
<https://vngpao.info/5c4h4pxx>

VNG breaks ground on new Army Aviation Support Facility

The Virginia National Guard ceremonially broke ground on the first in a series of projects to construct a new Army National Guard Aviation Support Facility March 31, 2025, in Sandston, Virginia.

Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin, U.S. Sen. Tim Kaine, retired Marine Corps Maj. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, the Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, and Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, all spoke during the ceremony, thanking the aviators for their readiness and resolve.

“What a great day to celebrate our Virginia National Guard,” said Youngkin. “The opportunity for us to have a new home that will in fact be the kind of facility that our Virginia National Guard deserves, I believe, is not only important, but honors the capabilities that so deeply support not just state needs, but national needs. Being the commonwealth’s protector is a huge responsibility, one that requires facilities and support that enable you to go in confidence.”

“Our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen are ready at any time of peril to answer the commonwealth’s call and also our nation’s call,” said Ring. “The Army Aviation Support Facility is part of that vital infrastructure which enables us as a National Guard to do that. This is what this vital facility supports every day.”

VNG Soldiers assigned to the Troutville-based 29th infantry Division Band provided ceremonial music for the event, and volunteers with the Virginia Defense Force provided traffic control and parking assistance.

The first project will build half of the approximately 11,000-square-foot helicopter parking space for the VNG’s UH-60 Black Hawk and UH-72 Lakota helicopters as well as an approximately 22,000-square-foot hangar and approximately 3,100-square-foot-operations building for the UH-72 helicopters. The project is projected for completion in 2027 at an estimated cost of \$49 million.

The current VNG AASF is adjacent to the Richmond International Airport, and the lease expires in 2032. The main hangar is 35 years old and only offers 52% of the space authorized by National Guard Bureau allocations.

“I’m a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, and one of the jobs I have is to go to bat for projects like this,” said Kaine. “We’ve been able to get federal funding to the tune of about \$25 million to get us to this day, and we think we have more to do. I will do that enthusiastically.”

The VNG currently has 24 rotary wing aircraft including 17 UH 60 Black Hawk assault helicopters, three UH-60 Black Hawk medical evacuation helicopters and four UH-72 Lakota light utility helicopters. The Lakota helicopters operate from a leased space at the Chesterfield County Airport along with a C-12 twin turboprop passenger and cargo aircraft.

The new facility will support a total of 27 UH-60 and UH-72 helicopters and one C-12 aircraft.

“Facilities like this have a huge bang for the buck,” said Kaine. “They can protect us at home, and they can make the world safer abroad as well.”

The current facility employs 90 full-time personnel, 430 traditional status National Guard Soldiers, and houses a fleet of



State and federal elected officials along with Virginia National Guard and community leaders ceremonially break ground on a new Army Aviation Support Facility March 31, 2025, in Sandston, Virginia.

24 rotary aircraft. It generates an estimated \$16 million of annual economic activity.

Speakers at the groundbreaking ceremony thanked members of the VNG aviation community for their commitment to keeping Virginia and the world safe, and highlighted emergency response during recent hurricanes, including the Virginia Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team’s efforts rescuing citizens in 2024.

“The Virginia National Guard is truly the protector of the commonwealth, and I saw it demonstrated with such clarity back during Hurricane Helene,” said Youngkin.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/42rres5t>

MORE ON THE WEB

The Virginia Veterans Network

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

Virginia National Guard Resiliency Resources

Read more at <https://va.ng.mil/Resiliency/>

Virginia National Guard Foundation

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/39res633>

Finnish Air Force commander tours 192nd Wing

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/mr27m6bm>

34th CST conducts training proficiency evaluation

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/3r344s39>

