

192nd Wing conducts agile combat training exercise

More than 800 mission-ready Air National Guard members gathered at the Air Dominance Center in Savannah, Georgia, April 21-27, 2025, for Operation Maverick's Armistice. This exercise aimed to strengthen the ability of multiple units to adapt and respond to challenges in a complex environment and marked the largest movement of the 192nd Wing since before 9/11.

As the fourth iteration of an agile combat training exercise led by the 192nd Wing, based at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia, Operation Maverick's Armistice brought together participants from various U.S. states and territories, including Virginia, Georgia, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The exercise fostered a culture of independence and collaboration, testing Airmen's training, knowledge and skills, and emphasizing the need for teams to identify, adapt, direct and overcome challenges without relying on usual support structures.

Operation Maverick's Armistice, the latest iteration in a series of exercises designed to advance new concepts and techniques, distinguished itself by redefining operational strategies.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/43kr5znn>



Virginia National Guard Airmen assigned to the 192nd Wing perform maintenance on an F-22 Raptor April 23, 2025, at Henry E. Rohlsen Airport in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

TAG, CSEL conduct key leader engagements in Tajikistan

Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and Command Master Sgt. John Nye, the Virginia National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader, conducted key leader engagements with senior Tajikistan officials June 23 and 24, 2025, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/25f349de>

Moore takes command of 116th IBCT

Col. Arthur S. Moore took charge as the new commander of the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team from Col. Jared D. Lake June 24, 2025, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/mrxj6pwb>

Hart family celebrates VNG enlistment with brother-led oath

When Will Hart raised his right hand to enlist into the Virginia Army National Guard, it was his older brother, 2nd Lt. Luke Hart, who stood across from him and administered the oath of enlistment.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p8faams>

111th FA Soldier among VNG's World War II missing in action

The Virginia National Guard History Program is highlighting the seven Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers who mobilized in 1941 who are still listed as missing in action.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p9d4nbt>

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116th IBCT tests new mobile brigade combat team organization

The Virginia National Guard's Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team was the first Army National Guard brigade to test and evaluate an approved task organization for a mobile brigade combat team during their 21-day eXportable Combat Training Capability rotation in June 2025 at Fort Pickett, Virginia. The MBCT concept is part of the U.S. Army's transformation initiative with the goal of making units more agile and lethal.

"The Normandy Brigade has proven once again why it stands among the premier formations in the Army National Guard," said Maj. Gen. Joseph A. DiNonno, 29th Infantry Division commanding general. "As the training audience for the eXportable Combat Training Capability rotation, you performed at the highest level. Your professionalism, readiness and adaptability were evident to every observer."

DiNonno said the Army assessed the 116th's performance as outstanding across multiple warfighting functions, validating their ability to conduct complex brigade-level operations under realistic and stressful combat conditions.

He said the historic XCTC rotation was more than just the name change to mobile brigade combat team.

"This is a fundamental shift in how we fight, how we move, and how we integrate across domains," DiNonno said. "The Normandy Brigade took that challenge head-on, restructuring during the exercise while simultaneously demonstrating operational effectiveness. You have set the standard for every other brigade to follow."

XCTC was a series of field training exercises simulating realistic combat scenarios including live fire, situational training lanes and force on force training, with a dedicated opposing force intended to increase the skills and readiness of National Guard units.

Col. Jared Lake, commander of the 116th during the XCTC rotation, commended the brigade's Soldiers for transitioning to the MBCT formation on short notice and with limited additional resources.

"Every one of you accepted the task with enthusiasm and professionalism," he said. "You executed the mission violently and came out the other side the crucible of XCTC on the tip of the spear of readiness, relevance and lethality for the Army. Your efforts not only helped us evolve and grow as an organization but will set the standard for how to transform a brigade combat team in contact in the National Guard."

The mobile brigade combat team force structure focuses on three infantry battalions with organic logistics support and the addition of a multi-purpose company in each battalion and a multi-functional reconnaissance company in the brigade.

"It's a great event, it's a great exercise, and a great way to validate our skills set," said Lt. Col. Kevin Hoffman, commander of the Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th IBCT. "If we put our mind to it, we can get better, but you have to take those lessons that you learned and make the organization better."



Soldiers assigned to 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conduct a movement to contact training lane June 17, 2025, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Hoffman said he could see the progression from the first day to the last day.

"I think we got a little bit better every single day," he said. "At the end, collectively, you're just dramatically better. It's pretty rare for us to execute at all levels."

One of the challenges was taking all the different capabilities available at XCTC and integrating them at the right time and place to accomplish the mission, Hoffman said.

"We are certainly much better at it today than when we started, and I think this training really moved us a lot in the right direction," he said.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yckvcbvm>

MORE ON THE WEB

116th IBCT conducts XCTC rotation

~ Photo collection on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/2f68jay5>

Favaro succeeds Pearson as 229th BEB commander

~ Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/5n88jmsb>

Kelso takes command of 3rd Battalion, 183rd RTI

~ Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/yckkpf2u>

Brown, Turpin take charge of VDF's 11th CRB

~ Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/4cwr5myj>

157th Engineer Platoon hosts USACE senior leader

~ Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/2p8abebh>



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