

Ceremony officially opens VNG's Roanoke RRC expansion

Virginia National Guard senior leaders along with state and local officials cut a ribbon to formally open the expanded Roanoke Regional Readiness Center Aug. 2, 2025, in Troutville, Virginia. The completed project increases the maintenance capabilities at the complex and provides training, administrative and storage space for additional units using a combination of new construction and renovation of existing buildings.

"The way that we as a nation and we as a commonwealth and community ensure that our Soldiers and Airmen are always ready and are always there is to have facilities just like this one," said. Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia. "Soldiers and Airmen need modernized facilities and spaces where they train. We are demonstrating the value of their service by the equipment and the facilities we provide them."

The VNG will have 26 full-time federal employees working at the Combine Support Maintenance Shop and 12 full-time federal employees working at the Readiness Center in support of the 229th Chemical Company and 29th Infantry Division Band. There are also two full-time state employees providing facilities support.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/424uvfn8>



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Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Samulski succeeds DiNonno as 29th ID commanding general

Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Samulski took command of the 29th Infantry Division from Maj. Gen. Joseph A. DiNonno Aug. 3, 2025, on the Long Parade Field at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p93tmkm>

Combined arms LFX marks milestone for 183rd RTI infantry training

The Virginia Army National Guard's 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute, recently ran three military occupational specialty transition courses at once, a first for any National Guard schoolhouse across the 54 states and territories.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p97w6rx>

VNG youth tackle adventure at 20th annual youth camp

More than 60 children of Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen enjoyed a week of adventure at the 20th annual Virginia National Guard Youth Camp July 26- Aug. 1, 2025, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p8edkc7>

Virginia National Guard to provide administrative, logistics support to ICE

The Virginia National Guard is finalizing plans as of Aug. 8, 2025, to mobilize approximately 60 Soldiers and Airmen with a mission to provide administrative and logistics support to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/bd5mhfen>

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Ribbon cutting celebrates opening of STARBASE Blackstone

The Virginia National Guard cut a ribbon to symbolically open STARBASE Blackstone, the VNG's second STARBASE Academy location, Aug. 8, 2025, at the VNG's Blackstone Readiness Center in Blackstone, Virginia.

STARBASE is a premier Department of Defense educational program aimed at educating youth through hands on science, technology, engineering, art and design and math activities. The goal is to inspire and educate students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and expand their awareness of future STEAM careers while providing a model and vision for STEAM education to local school districts and educators.

"Today we are proud to be participating in a ribbon cutting for our second STARBASE Academy here in Blackstone, which will service not just the town of Blackstone, but all of the surrounding counties," said Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia. "The Virginia National Guard remains deeply committed to programs such as STARBASE to strengthen the relationships with our local communities."

The first Virginia STARBASE location, STARBASE Winchester, opened in 2012. Since then, more than 10,000 students have taken part in the program's activities. The new Blackstone location will partner with public and private schools in the region to serve students in the Town of Blackstone, as well as Nottoway, Lunenburg, Brunswick, Amelia, Dinwiddie and Prince Edward Counties.

The Blackstone location is led by Nikole Johnson, a career educator with roots in Blackstone. Dr. Tara Dunbar serves as the deputy director and instructor, and Lucy Willis is also an instructor. Both Dunbar and Willis are also seasoned educators. Jaylin Bryant rounds out the Blackstone STARBASE team as office manager.

"What an incredible day to celebrate a truly meaningful milestone," said Johnson. "This moment is not just about launching a program. It's about the future of our children and the future of Southside Virginia."

Also participating in the ribbon cutting were retired Maj. Gen. Craig Crenshaw, the Virginia Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, and retired Col. Everton E. Nevers, the DMA Chief of Staff. The gathering for the event included local government and public school leaders, as well as Virginia Del. Lee Ware, whose district includes Nottoway and Amelia Counties.

The Blackstone STARBASE is housed in the Blackstone Readiness Center, where in October 2024, ground was officially broken on the new academy during a ceremony featuring Ring, Nevers and Johnson. Their classroom will see 5th grade students conducting experiments and learning technologies, including robotics, engineering and even 3D printing, all with the goal of inspiring the students and building a bench of future innovators.

"STARBASE is designed to inspire and equip our students to pursue a future in science, technology, engineering, art and design and math," said Johnson. "Our goal is simple yet powerful: To help students see how what they learn connects to the real world. At this age, one spark today can grow into a scientist, an engineer,



Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs Craig Crenshaw and Maj. Gen. James W. Ring cut a ribbon to open STARBASE Blackstone with Nikole Johnson, the program's director, Aug. 8, 2025, in Blackstone, Virginia.

a coder, innovator, artist or designer of tomorrow."

The program also exposes children to a relationship partnering civilian and military leaders, something Ring says is vital to fostering a sense of civic engagement.

"By exposing students to positive military and civilian role models, we instill in them a sense of duty, honor, and service – values that are not only essential to military life, but also fundamental to a strong and vibrant community," said Ring. "By emphasizing the importance of civic engagement, we are helping to develop a generation of leaders committed to making a positive contribution to society."

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/ycvaer6a>

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Cyber Fortress 25 to test cyber incident response

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Marcinko succeeds Leslie as Saber Squadron commander

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