

# 180th Engineers begin federal active duty mobilization

Approximately 130 Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 180th Engineer Support Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group marked the beginning of their federal active duty mobilization to the Horn of Africa with a departure ceremony Sept. 8, 2025, in Powhatan, Virginia.

During the ceremony, Capt. Catherine Bean and 1st Sgt. Bryan Estes, the 180th ESC command team, furled their organizational colors to signify the start of the mobilization. They will unfurl the colors when they arrive in the Horn of Africa and officially take responsibility for their mission.

The 180th will take responsibility as the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa's engineer capability from the New York National Guard's 152nd ESC. The 180th will support CJTF-HOA and U.S. Africa Command to enhance regional stability and strengthen relationships with partner nations through various construction projects coordinated across the Horn of Africa

Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and Brig. Gen. Charles B. Martin Jr., commander of the Virginia Army National Guard, both gave remarks during the ceremony.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p99t42h>



The Virginia National Guard's Powhatan-based 180th Engineer Support Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group conducts a departure ceremony Sept. 8, 2025, at Powhatan High School in Powhatan, Virginia.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### Cyber operators train for response, mitigation at Cyber Fortress 25

National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force partnered with military and civilian cyber operators Aug. 2-17, 2025, in Virginia Beach, Virginia, during Cyber Fortress 25 where they simulated the process they would follow to respond to a cyber attack on an electricity cooperative.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p8wf87b>

### VaANG's Bosslift event enhances military-civilian partnerships

Strengthening ties between the military and civilian sectors, the 192nd Wing, Virginia Air National Guard, hosted the 2025 Bosslift event on Sept. 6, 2025, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yckna9dt>

### VNG celebrates graduates of OCS Class 67, 68A, 68B

Nine officer candidates graduated from the Virginia National Guard's Officer Candidate School Sept. 14, 2025, in a ceremony hosted by 183rd Regiment, Regional Training Institute at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/3s5nbab2>

### Virginia Air National Guard welcomes first Warrant Officer

Virginia Air National Guard Chief Warrant Officer 2 J. Anthony Dell graduated from Warrant Officer Training School May 21, 2025, and now serves as the 192nd Wing's first warrant officer since the U.S. Air Force discontinued the rank in 1959.

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p8wta8z>

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# Ceremony formalizes return of 29th ID DIVARTY

The Virginia National Guard formally re-activated the 29th Infantry Division Artillery, or DIVARTY, during a ceremony Sept. 6, 2025, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia. Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, presided over the ceremony featuring the uncasing of colors for DIVARTY and DIVARTY's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery.

Brig. Gen. Christopher J. Samulski, the 29th ID commanding general, and Col. Shawn Talmadge, DIVARTY commander, gave remarks during the ceremony, which featured scores of current and former DIVARTY Soldiers and officers.

"The history of DIVARTY is one of adaptation, sacrifice and excellence, from the thunder of Normandy's beaches to the precision of today's battlefield," said Samulski. "It's reactivation today is not merely a structural adjustment, it's a reaffirmation of our commitment to national defense in an uncertain world, and the recognition that large-scale combat operations are a reality of our future."

"I look across at our leadership and throughout the entire room and I just want to say thank you for the trust and confidence to take this role as we stand up this new unit," said Talmadge. "It is definitely a unique mission to go from zero to nothing, and for that I truly appreciate and respect the task at hand."

Before Samulski and Talmadge's remarks, the DIVARTY's executive officer, Lt. Col. Jonathan Fair, provided an in-depth look at the history of the unit, which was de-activated in 2005 due to Army-wide force structure changes.

"The new 29th DIVARTY will continue the proud lineage of its namesake from World War II that provided artillery for the 29th Infantry Division from the beaches of Normandy to Victory in Europe Day," said Fair.

"The history of DIVARTY is one of adaptation, sacrifice and excellence, from the thunder of Normandy's beaches to the precision of today's battlefield," said Samulski. "It's reactivation today is not merely a structural adjustment, it's a reaffirmation of our commitment to national defense in an uncertain world, and the recognition that large-scale combat operations are a reality of our future."

The reactivation of the unit was spurred by evolving operational requirements and a changing vision for the way wars are fought.

"As we look toward the future of warfare, the Army's making bold investments to ensure artillery returns to being the dominant, agile and lethal force across all domains," said Talmadge.

"The 29th DIVARTY, with line battalions from Virginia, Florida and Georgia, will focus on planning, executing and assessing combined-arms fires, emphasizing precision strikes in large-scale conflicts," said Samulski. "More importantly, this reactivation highlights the Army's renewed emphasis on Division-level coordination for multi-domain operation to better prepare for high-intensity warfare."

Also during the ceremony, Capt. Daniel Parrish and 1st Sgt. Teron Alford were recognized as the command team for DIVARTY's Headquarters and Headquarters Battery.



**The 29th Infantry Division Artillery command team uncases their unit colors during a re-activation ceremony Sept. 6, 2025, at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond, Virginia.**

Recruitment for the new unit is already underway. Earlier this year, Pvt. Tariq Rahaman became the first Soldier to enlist into the newly reactivated unit during a ceremony at Defense Supply Center Richmond. More information about Rahaman and his enlistment can be found at <https://vngpao.info/2p98t74j>.

Both Samulski and Talmadge thanked the Soldiers who carried the DIVARTY torch prior to its deactivation in 2005, as well as the Soldiers who are part of the unit's reactivation.

"To the veterans who carried its colors before: thank you for your service," said Samulski. "To the Soldiers who man the line today: thank you for what you do and what you'll be asked to do in service to this great nation."

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yckvn8sb>

## MORE ON THE WEB

### VNG mobilizes troops for admin, logistics support to ICE

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2jw8x24h>

### Funeral Honors team trains to active-duty Soldiers

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

### Virginia Defense Force authorized new uniforms

~ Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p9x9677>

### Ceremony honors Epperly's 36 years of military service

~ Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/25yz3zxp>

### VNG ceremony marks anniversary of 9/11

~ Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/2zme7kdx>



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