

34th CST trained, ready after formal evaluation

The Virginia National Guard's 34th Civil Support Team was evaluated as trained and mission capable after a Training Proficiency Evaluation March 31 - April 3, 2025, in Lynchburg, Virginia. The evaluation was conducted by U.S. Army North, which supervised the exercise and validated the unit's level of readiness.

The mission of the 34th CST is to support civil authorities in a domestic chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or high-yield explosive incident, and the evaluated tasks included deploying the team, establishing communications and medical support, conducting survey, technical decontamination and analytical functions as well as conducting interagency coordination.

During the TPE, the CST was evaluated during two full-scale training exercises, responding to scenarios involving a simulated chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive threat, including a simulated attack at a haunted house attraction. During the exercises, the CST conducted reconnaissance and sample-collection missions, analyzing collected substances to determine the severity of the hazard and the appropriate next steps, all under the scrutiny of ARNORTH evaluators.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yc38t27u>



Virginia National Guard Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the Fort Barfoot-based 34th Civil Support Team conduct a training proficiency evaluation April 3, 2025, in Lynchburg, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Additional details released on D-Day veteran remains identification

The Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency released additional details April 17, 2025, on the identification of U.S. Army Sgt. Ivor D. Thornton, 34, killed during World War II. 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/ycktcwus>

VaANG to participate in Operation Maverick's Armistice

The Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Wing will lead Operation Maverick's Armistice, an agile combat employment exercise to be held April 21-27, 2025, in Savannah, Georgia, and surrounding airfields in the Sea of Antilles.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/34e3eue3>

Historic highway marker honoring SMR unveiled in Virginia Beach

A Virginia historic highway marker recognizing the State Military Reservation Historic District was unveiled during a ceremony April 10, 2025, in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/s857jy25>

VNG Soldiers conduct close-quarters battle exchange in Tajikistan

Four Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers conducted a close-quarters battle exchange with members of the Tajik military April 7 - 11, 2025, in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/ydebnsuw6>

Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

Va. Army National Guard

<http://nationalguard.com/va>

Va. Air National Guard

<https://vngpao.info/3n7hr67a>

Va. Defense Force

<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

Join the Virginia National Guard Alumni Network

<https://vngpao.info/5c4h4pxx>

Finnish Air Force commander tours 192nd Wing

Finnish Maj. Gen. Timo Herranen, commander of the Finnish Air Force, met with Virginia National Guard leaders April 7, 2025, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia. The visit was part of the Department of Defense's State Partnership Program, which established a partnership between Virginia and Finland in May 2024.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia, hosted the visit along with U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Catherine M. Jumper, Commander of the Virginia Air National Guard, and U.S. Air Force Col. Brock E. Lange, 192nd Wing commander.

Herranen was accompanied by Finnish Col. Markus Mecklin, the defense cooperation attache, Finnish Col. Tero Solante, chief of digitalization, and Finnish Lt. Col. Mikko Kankaisto, Herranen's military assistant.

During the visit, the Finnish delegation was introduced to senior leaders of the 192nd Wing, who provided an overview of the wing's operations and answered questions from their Finnish counterparts.

Airmen with the 192nd Wing briefed the Finnish partners on several VaANG mission capabilities. Highlights included discussions and a static display of an F-22 Raptor, the Expandable Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen, and the 185th Cyberspace Operations Squadron. The Virginia Beach-based 203rd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers was also represented during the tour, showcasing a 670G Motor Grader.

The tour concluded with Ring and Herranen meeting with Lt. Gen. Michael G. Koscheski, Air Combat Command deputy commander.

"The Virginia National Guard and our U.S. Armed Forces continue to benefit from the partnership with the Finnish Defence Forces," said Ring. "It was an honor for the Virginia National Guard to host Maj. Gen. Herranen and his team in Virginia, and we look forward to future exchanges with the Finnish Air Force. The U.S., Finland and our global partners remain stronger together as we promote peace through strength."

Herranen expressed his appreciation for the visit, noting the strong capabilities, commitment, and friendship demonstrated by the Virginia Air National Guard.

"The Finnish Air Force was convinced of VaANG's warfighting and ACE (Agile Combat Employment) capabilities," said Herranen. "Cyber also allows for many cooperation opportunities."

The visit highlighted the growing ties between Finland and Virginia and underscored the importance of international cooperation and shared defense strategies through the State Partnership Program.

The VNG maintains a strong relationship with Finland, which includes military training exchanges between Finnish Defence Forces and VNG Soldiers and Airmen. Previous missions have included joint exercises and strategic planning sessions.

Most recently, the West Point-based 237th Engineer Company,



Finnish Maj. Gen. Timo Herranen, commander of the Finnish Air Force, tours the Virginia Air National Guard's 192nd Wing and meets with Virginia National Guard leaders April 7, 2025, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia.

276th Engineer Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group participated in a cold-weather training exercise from Feb. 15 to March 1 with the Finnish Defense Force during Arctic Forge 25 in Kouvola, Finland. In November 2024, the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conducted an infantry exchange with the Finnish Defense Forces in Finland.

Finnish personnel also traveled to Virginia to participate in the Cyber Fortress 3.0 exercise, hosted by the 91st Cyber Brigade, in the summer of 2024.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yh678p2k>

MORE ON THE WEB

Nye succeeds Reich as VNG CSEL

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/bdfyfj3n>.

HART aviators, rescue techs receive VNG Bronze Star

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/2p92krnp>

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>



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard



@VaNationalGuard

