

VNG provides water support to Richmond

The Virginia National Guard mobilized approximately 55 personnel to provide water distribution support Jan. 10-11, 2025, to Richmond, Virginia, and also staged approximately 50 personnel to prepare for potential winter storm response at multiple locations across the state. All troops were demobilized by Jan. 12, and the VNG returned to routine operations.

“It has been a busy week working alongside our local and state partners, and I think Virginia National Guard troops are doing a fantastic job as they wrapped up one snow response and quickly geared for water distribution and more snow,” said Brig. Gen. Todd Hubbard, VNG Director of the Joint Staff. “During domestic response operations, the National Guard can bring in tactical resources used for our federal mission that can help our fellow Virginians in times of need. In this situation, bulk water tanks used to support Soldiers in the field can provide citizens of Richmond with much-needed water.”

Hubbard visited troops at multiple locations in Richmond, and he said he was impressed by the positive attitudes and willingness to be of service.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/wze2nmwr>



A Virginia National Guard Airman assigned to the 203rd Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron supports water bottle distribution efforts Jan. 11, 2025, in Richmond, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

Quinn announced as next Fort Barfoot garrison commander
 Lt. Col. Eric L. Quinn will succeed Col. James C. Shaver Jr. as the Fort Barfoot garrison commander according to an announcement made Jan. 2, 2025, by Maj. Gen. James W. Ring, the Adjutant General of Virginia. A change of command ceremony is scheduled for Feb. 1 at the Fort Barfoot Theater.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/yc52wphj>

Handegard succeeds Yang as 192nd Medical Group commander
 The 192nd Wing held a promotion ceremony for U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Sarah E. Handegard followed by a change of command ceremony for the 192nd Medical Group Dec. 7, 2024, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis in Hampton, Virginia..
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p8ere27>

Course prepares Va., N.C. Soldiers for funeral honors duty
 Two Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers and two North Carolina Army National Guard Soldiers trained on the basics of military funeral honors Dec. 9-13, 2024, at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach, Virginia.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2ptb8aph>

Governor announces launch of Virginia Veterans Network
 On Veterans Day 2024, Governor Glenn Youngkin announced the launch of the Virginia Veterans Network: the Commonwealth's new online one-stop information resource for veterans, transitioning service members and their families.
 Read more at <https://vngpao.info/2p9536rz>

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/y7n7ch3s>

Va. Defense Force
<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

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

ChalleNGe Class 61 graduates 44 cadets

Forty-four cadets graduated from Class 61 of the Commonwealth ChalleNGe Youth Academy Dec. 21, 2024, at Green Run High School in Virginia Beach, Virginia. Brig. Gen. Rusty McGuire, Assistant Adjutant General for Army Strategic Initiatives, retired Col. Everton Nevers, the Virginia Department of Military Affairs Chief of Staff, and United States Marine Corps Capt. Jergen "Cam" Campbell, a CCYA graduate and guest speaker for the ceremony, joined Jen Lanz, director of Commonwealth ChalleNGe, in congratulating each of the graduates.

"I'm a product of this awesome program," explained Campbell, a graduate of Class 16. "I want to say thank you to my platoon cadre for being patient with me, for being gracious with me. I didn't think I'd graduate Challenge."

Campbell has served in the Marine Corps for more than 20 years.

"So before you leave today, take a moment to say thank you to the cadre who have taken care of you, who have encouraged you, who have challenged you every single day," Campbell told the graduates of Class 61. "Continue to seek challenges. Healthy challenges that are going to help you grow and find out who you are. This is not the end of your journey. Don't let it be the end of your journey. Do not be complacent. Because complacency kills. So you have to maintain momentum.

"None of us have actually made it," he explained. "I'm still trying to figure this thing called life out. As are your parents, as are your big brothers and sisters. You have to remain coachable and you have to remain open minded. I'm begging you to keep building your resiliency."

McGuire recounted his childhood as a self-described "miscreant" and shared how the military shaped his life.

"I dropped out of high school because I thought I knew it all," he explained. "I'd like to say I had this great wisdom of joining the military."

After visiting recruiters from every active-duty branch and getting turned away, he was pointed toward Army National Guard.

"I didn't even know what that was," McGuire recalled. "But wow did it change the trajectory of my life. I learned discipline, success and it shot me off and became addictive. I suspect Commonwealth ChalleNGe is the same thing I went through. It caused in me, and I hope it causes in you, relentless success."

Commonwealth ChalleNGe Youth Academy is the Virginia component of the National Guard Youth ChalleNGe Program and is based at the State Military Reservation in Virginia Beach. ChalleNGe is a 17-and-a-half-month program that is structured in a military-style environment designed to promote academics, attention to detail, time management, and leadership, while promoting self-esteem, confidence and pride.

During the ceremony, Lanz recognized Mark E. Chicoine for his service as director of CCYA. Chicoine, the fourth director of CCYA, retired in March 2024.

"Director Emeritus Chicoine shook the hand of over 2,000 graduates and impacted their future by his leadership on the ground



Forty-four cadets graduate from Class 61 of the Commonwealth ChalleNGe Youth Academy Dec. 21, 2024, at Green Run High School in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

and Commonwealth ChalleNGe Youth Academy," Lanz said. "Today I would like to recognize Mr. Mark E. Chicoine for his 11 years of service to ChalleNGe and the Department of Military Affairs."

Lanz then thanked the CCYA staff who are vital to the success of the program.

"Our teachers, cadre, counselors, admissions, career advisors, medical staff, logistics team, support personnel and our dining facility have all stepped up, going above and beyond to fill in the gaps to make sure every cadet had what they needed," she said.

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/ycknd53w>

MORE ON THE WEB

The Virginia Veterans Network

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

VNG staged, ready for possible winter weather response

Read more at <https://vngpao.info/68c6jvf6>

VNG Soldiers support bulk water distribution in Richmond

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/29fp7bnc>

VNG Soldiers, Airmen support water distribution

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/2p8sy4nh>

VNG Airmen support water distribution in Richmond

Photos on Flickr at <https://vngpao.info/bdz8nrtd>

