

Ceremony remembers 77th anniversary of D-Day

The valor, fidelity and sacrifice of D-Day participants were remembered June 6, 2021, at the observance of the 77th anniversary of the Allied invasion of Normandy at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia. Retired Brig. Gen. Peter C. Hinz, national commander of the 29th Division Association, and Col. Christopher J. Samulski, commander of the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, placed the wreath honoring all U.S. forces during the ceremony. The 29th Infantry Division Band provided the color guard, drum and fife and ceremonial music for the event. Three World War II veterans were recognized, and Normandy veteran Ash Rothlein shared his experience.

“We started across the beach in a heavy fog moving up a steep bluff ... the fog lifted to reveal a sight so shocking and stark in its finality my internal response was seismic and everlasting,” Rothlein said. “Grave markers littered the ground as far as the eye could see. Those brave warriors paid with their lives so I and my band of brothers could crest that hill and do our part to win the war. I still feel the sadness, guilt and determination of that memorable experience.”

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/x6QHk>



Retired Brig. Gen. Peter C. Hinz and Col. Christopher J. Samulski place the wreath honoring all U.S. forces June 6, 2021, during the observation of the 77th anniversary D-Day at the National D-Day Memorial in Bedford, Virginia.

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

AG joins Flag Day and Army Birthday celebration in Vinton

Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, gave remarks and participated in a ceremonial cake cutting during the Flag Day and Army Birthday event hosted by the Allegheny - Blue Ridge chapter of the Association of the U.S. Army June 13, 2021, in Vinton, Virginia.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/x6QAS>

116th IBCT Soldiers train on new recoilless rifle system

Virginia and Kentucky National Guard Soldiers assigned to the 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team trained on the M3E1 Multi-purpose Anti-armor Anti-personnel Weapon System June 1 - 11, 2021, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/x6Qs2>

183rd RTI holds recognition ceremony for WOCS graduates

The Virginia National Guard's Warrant Officer Candidate School welcomed five new graduates from class 21-001 during a recognition ceremony June 5, 2021, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/x6QsD>

VNG Soldiers compete for spot on All-Guard Marathon Team

Five Virginia National Guard Soldiers competed for a spot on the elite All-Guard Marathon Team during National Guard Marathon Time Trials, held during the Lincoln Marathon May 2, 2021, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/x6QsW>

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VDF Communication Battalion conducts readiness exercise

The Virginia Defense Force Communication Battalion, Support Operations Group conducted an operational readiness exercise June 5, 2021, at multiple locations across Virginia to validate unit readiness in the event of activation in support of civil authorities. The exercise tested the ability of VDF personnel to muster, prepare their equipment for deployment, conduct movement and engage multiple online and radio communications platforms. VDF personnel from the SOG's Regional Liaison Detachment supported the exercise, as well as incident management assistance and access control teams from the VDF's 1st Regiment.

The ORE is an annual readiness exercise to test the responsiveness, deployability and resilience of Communication Battalion Mobile Communication Platform equipment and crews to move from home stations to sites across the commonwealth, explained Lt. Col. Nicholas Christoff, commander of the SOG.

"The exercise went extremely well, we were able to make communication across the commonwealth and demonstrated the ability to provide support to the Virginia National Guard or other state or local organization if requested," Christoff said.

Early Saturday morning, VDF personnel arrived at VNG readiness centers in Lynchburg, Richmond and Warrenton to prepare four MCPs for movement and operations. Once they moved to their operational locations, access control teams from 1st Regiment provided security and incident management assistance teams exchanged message traffic with the MCPs. Members of the RL Detachment were also integrated into exercise message traffic.

In addition to sending and receiving radio message traffic, VDF personnel also confirmed the capability to send and received email traffic with VDF senior leaders.

The VDF MCP is a 7 1/2 feet by 16 feet trailer equipped with multiple radio systems for voice and data communications, and it also features a map board and work space so it can function as a mobile command post. Using an MCP, members of the VDF are able to communicate across a variety of radio spectrums with emergency response and public safety organizations as well as amateur radio operators.

The RL Detachment is headquartered at Lynchburg and has the mission to provide experienced, reliable and professional personnel in various roles to all seven of the Virginia Department of Emergency Management's regions. Acting as an interface between VNG liaison officers and regional partners, RL Detachment personnel lend continuity and expertise balancing regional resource requests with VNG ability to provide support during emergencies and disasters. They can fill any number of key roles such as leadership support to VNG operations staff and operations leaders, branch directors and situation unit leaders to the Commonwealth of Virginia Incident Management Team.

During domestic operations, the VNG and VDF receive requests for mission support from the Va. Department of Emergency Management and respond as part of a multi-agency team with other state and local agencies to provide support capabilities to communities in need.



Virginia Defense Force personnel assigned to the Communication Battalion, Support Operations Group relay message traffic in a Mobile Communication Platform June 5, 2021, in Lynchburg, Virginia.

The VDF is authorized by Title 44 of the Code of Virginia as the all-volunteer reserve of the Virginia National Guard, and they are a force multiplier and integrated into all VNG domestic response operations. Members of the VDF volunteer their time for training and are only paid when called to state active duty by an authorization from the Governor of Virginia. The VDF reports to the Adjutant General of Virginia as part of the Virginia Department of Military Affairs along with the Virginia Army National Guard and Virginia Air National Guard.

Read more: <https://go.usa.gov/x6QAs>

MORE ON THE WEB

Signal officer shares journey of transition, acceptance

<https://go.usa.gov/x6Qsk>

Dual-military couple provides support through challenges

<https://go.usa.gov/x6Qsn>

Photos: HART conducts confined-space hoist training

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157719393584563>

Photos: DMA welcomes 17 new employees during orientation

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157719440387765>

Photos: Red Dragons ruck march visit Tribute Center

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