



Photo by Senior Airman Cecil C. McCloud, U.S. Air Force

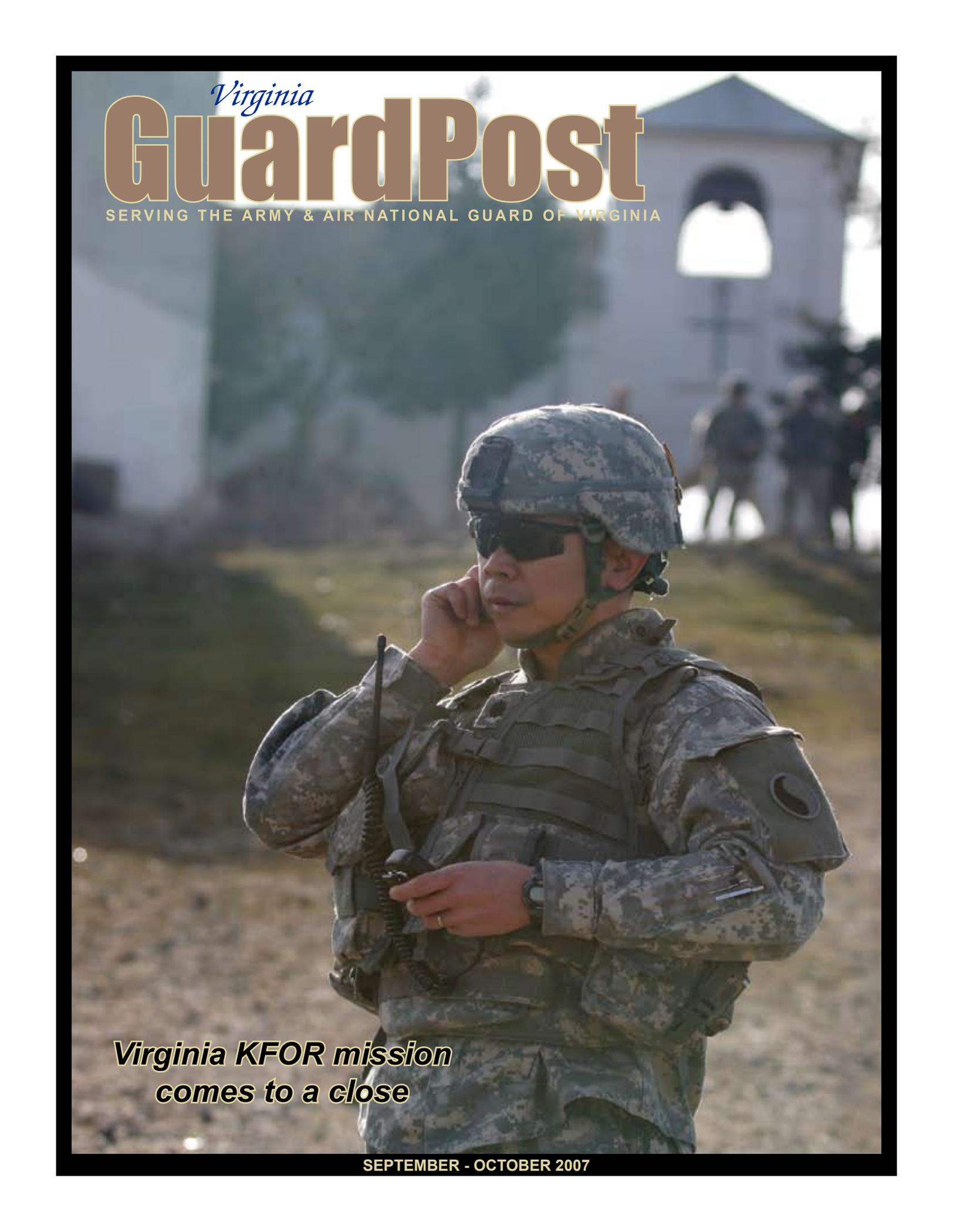
Tech. Sgts. Thomas Harper, David Martens and Steve Breeden load an AIM-9 missile on station 3 of an F-22A during the weapons load competition at the 94th Fighter Squadron Oct. 17. This particular crew is from the Air National Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing, working out of the 94th Aircraft Maintenance Unit. After each crew loads their weapons, scores are tallied and a winning crew will be announced. These competitions are performed on a quarterly basis and these winners will compete for the Load Crew of the Year.

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SERVING THE ARMY & AIR NATIONAL GUARD OF VIRGINIA

*Virginia KFOR mission
comes to a close*

SEPTEMBER - OCTOBER 2007



FROM THE TOP



Ordinary people performing extraordinary duties

By Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman, Jr.
Adjutant General of Virginia

“Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction. We didn’t pass it to our children in the bloodstream. It must be fought for, protected, and handed on for them to do the same.”

– Ronald Reagan

Ordinary men and women have been defending the Commonwealth of Virginia and this nation for nearly 400 years, performing an extraordinary duty without regard for hardship or sacrifice.

That is what makes you the strength of the nation.

By undertaking this duty to sacrifice for others you may never know — or for those with whom you may not agree — you have taken the idea of a free nation and turned it into the reality of a free nation.

Virginia Guardsmen have answered the call to duty, not only to preserving freedom but to serve as Guardians of the Commonwealth.

As Virginia Guardsmen, you possess intense strength of character. It takes strength to dedicate one’s life to saving lives and mitigating human suffering, sometimes at the cost of your own.

This strength is truly the strength of America. It transcends the power of military equipment, no matter how impressive. You can see that same inner strength when you talk to one of our Guardsmen and ask why he or she served; it is an enduring quality. You will see in their eyes that blaze of



Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman, Jr.

patriotism.

From one generation to the next, certain elements of war may change. Weapons come and go, uniforms change, organizations and policies are revised. But the noble spirit moving under an American uniform remains the same. It was this way 400 years ago; it will be this way a century from now.

For many young people throughout history, the experience of always placing another first, of serving something larger than you, is a new experience. The effect is profound and life-changing. For that one special period in a young life — whether in a night sky torn by anti-aircraft tracers, a limitless ocean half a world away, or a muddy maneuver area in Blackstone,

Virginia — you men and women share a common experience of service and will never be the same.

You are no longer just Americans and Virginians. Your decision to serve has transformed you into men and women who have stepped forward and said, “This is worth it; I will put my life on the line for this idea that is America.”

We are a strong commonwealth and a nation of good people, and perhaps because of those very qualities, we cannot ignore the troubles that beset our world. We have a duty to pass the blessings of freedom to the next generation.

The Virginia National Guard is balancing the demands of the nation and the world and ensuring that Guard families have the support and preparation they need to endure the challenge at hand and the challenges ahead as we serve the commonwealth and the nation.

The Guardsmen serving today were not drafted or conscripted into service, you volunteered to go into harm’s way, many two, three, and even more times.

You voted for freedom by raising their right hand and swearing to support and defend the Constitution of the United States.

Freedom began as an idea. It is for this idea that we serve. It is to this idea that we dedicate our lives, helping to fortify the past sacrifices that have transformed that idea into the reality that is history’s greatest triumph of liberty and dignity, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the United States of America.

Virginia National Guard Federal Deployments

# *	Unit	Where Deployed	Home Town
160	A Co., 116th Brigade Special Troops Battalion	Iraq	Fredericksburg
139	HHC, 116th IBCT	Iraq	Staunton
172	A Co., E Co., 429th Brigade Support Battalion	Iraq	South Boston and Roanoke
420	2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry	Iraq	Various Locations
750	3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment	Kuwait	Various Locations
110	237th Engineer Company	Iraq	West Point

* All listings for numbers of Soldiers/Airmen are approximate as of November 12, 2007

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In addition to daily patrols and frequent VCPs, Red Dragon also conducted several capabilities demonstrations where a reaction force was deployed by helicopter to simulate securing a Serbian Orthodox church. During the March 2004 riots, many churches were subject to vandalism, so showing KFOR commitment to protecting those churches sent a powerful message to both the minority and majority communities, Flora said.

"The majority community respects KFOR," Flora said. "If they see the minority community being protected, it sends a strong message to them. We came here to win the hearts and minds of the people of Kosovo, and we did that in a very big way."

Liaison Monitoring Team Company

The LMT company is an organization unique to Kosovo. After the March 2004 riots, the senior leaders of KFOR realized there was a need to maintain a higher degree of situation awareness in the local communities. LMT organizations were formed and given the specific mission of keeping a pulse on the mood and concerns of the population, as well as working closely with local government leaders.

The approximately 90 Soldiers of the LMT company were selected from all over Virginia, and they received specialized training during the mobilization process to help prepare them for their unique mission in Kosovo. During the rotation, LMT Soldiers drove more than 523,000 kilometers, conducted more than 43,500 interviews, visited more than 500 villages and attended nearly 1,900 meetings. All of these engagements were designed to hear the concerns of the population and help them develop strategies for finding their own solutions to the problems they faced.

"Just like the name says, our job is to liaison with and monitor the local community in order to gain overt information which would provide an early warning to threats to the safe and secure environment," said 1st Lt. Jay Greeley, the officer in charge of the LMTs in the municipality of Gnjilane/Gjilane. "LMTs are able to detect threats by building relationships in the local population and watching their activities."

LMTs had to work at teaching citizens



Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, KFOR 8 Public Affairs

Soldiers from Viti/Vitina Liaison Monitoring Team assist in pulling up a water pump in the Viti/Vitina municipality.

to solve their own problems. "The local population often turns to the LMT as a problem solver, the proverbial easy button, which they can bring any problem to first," Greeley said. "Kosovo Albanians and Kosovo Serbians approach us with problems such as crimes, land disputes, refugee issues or safety concerns, and we dealt with these by attempting to make individuals understand the resources or people they could talk to solve their own problem."

The mobilization began for most Soldiers in late August 2006 with two months of training at Camp Atterbury, Ind. During the training and preparation for the Kosovo mission, Soldiers were often presented with the scenario for the "worst day in Kosovo" to make sure they could respond to the most difficult challenges they could face. The reality on the ground was very different from the training, said 1st Lt. Scott Drugo, the officer in charge of the LMT section based out of the municipality of Viti/Vitina.

"We trained for a more violent area and when we arrived here in Kosovo people were inviting us into their homes and offering food and drink," he said. "Past KFOR rotations have made the U.S. Soldier a hero and we took it one step further and I am sure KFOR 9 will do the same. We have made friends with families and individuals, and I do believe if I come back to the Vitina area I will have no problem finding a friend I have made while

on this deployment and be welcome into their home as part of the family."

"I think the most important factor for our success was our ability to effectively communicate to both ethnicities to remain patient during the final status discussions," Greeley said. "Our Soldiers influenced village leaders, police officers, priests, teachers, and displaced persons that KFOR was there to provide a safe and secure environment in an unbiased manner. To the team's credit there were no injuries or destruction of property during peaceful demonstrations in our municipality."

When the Soldiers of KFOR 8 arrived, they sometimes received a chilly welcome from the minority Serbian population, many of whom harbored some resentment towards the United States for the state department's official stance on Kosovo independence. "Because of the great efforts of our LMTs in Serbian communities, the outlook towards US Soldiers improved dramatically," Scott said.

The mission in Kosovo left Virginia Guard Soldiers with many vivid memories. "I have pictures with many of the kids of the area and a few children will stand out in my mind," Drugo said. "These kids made me smile and kept the mission in perspective. We were here to change the future and we did by touching the lives of the kids. These children have huge hearts and hearing a classroom of kids say good morning all at one time makes my face hurt from smiling so big."

1032nd Soldiers cook their way to Connelly finals



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hampton, Virginia Guard Public Affairs

Sgt. Vincent Woodmancy of the 1032nd Transportation Company serves up a meal during the Connelly cooking competition Sept. 29 at Fort Pickett.

**By Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hampton
Virginia Guard Public Affairs**

Ask any Soldier, Airman, Sailor or Marine what keeps them going when the going gets tough and undoubtedly “chow” will rank right near the top.

No one knows this better than the food service personnel of the 1032nd Transportation Company of Gate City who came away with top honors for area 4 in the Phillip A. Connelly Cooking Competition earlier this year.

This placed them in the running for the

national title with seven other states. But as the saying goes, “to whom much is given, much is expected,” which was precisely the view of the evaluators who came to Fort Pickett on Sept. 29 on their first of seven steps to ultimately decide which unit will win the national title.

“We look for a variety of things, from sanitation to Soldier satisfaction. Ultimately the goal is to identify those units who are covering all the bases and doing things right,” said Command Sgt. Maj. David Green, an evaluator from the Army Center of Excellence and Subsistence (ACES) at

Fort Lee. “But it all boils down to how Soldiers respond.”

The Connelly program is co-sponsored by the Department of the Army and International Food Service Executives Association (IFSEA.)

Finalists are evaluated in one of five categories - small garrison, large garrison, and field kitchens in the Active Army, U.S. Army Reserve and Army National Guard.

ACES and IFSEA evaluators travel around the world to obtain first-hand knowledge of how Army food service personnel perform their jobs. All the finalists are evaluated in a number of areas including food preparation, taste, nutrition, service and sanitation.

Green said that the 1032nd can be proud of what they’ve accomplished. The competition is very tough.

“Units generally prepare a year out for the Connelly which makes the event very competitive,” he said. “By making it to the finals, Virginia has proven that they know a little something about cooking in the field.”

First Cook Sgt. Vince Woodmancy seemed to make it all look easy as he prepared for the noon serving time. He and his crew worked succinctly, putting the finishing touches on what proved to be an outstanding presentation and, according to the Soldiers, a very tasty meal.

Green, who seemed to enjoy the meal, would not speculate as to their chances, but did say that the 1032nd set the bar pretty high.

The winner will be announced later this year.

Basic Training continued from Page 12

she wished she could join as well. The recruiter, Staff Sgt. Jonathan Rhew, told Seate that the Army had recently raised its age limit for new enlistees to 42.

“So I asked him where the papers were,” Seate said. “It’s my turn to step up. I want to serve my country and do my part.”

But Rhew, who is Seate’s older brother and Elliott’s uncle, insists that he didn’t push them into it. Rather, his sister and niece convinced each other to enlist.

“They pushed each other towards it and I’m proud of them,” he said. “This will open a lot of doors for them.”

After three days at Fort Pickett in the Virginia Guard’s

Recruit Sustainment Program, the two prepared to ship off to basic training in October.

“I’m very proud that she stepped up to the plate to be a Soldier,” Seate said of her daughter.

“I’m proud of her too,” Elliott said.

Following their nine weeks at Fort Jackson, Seate and Elliott will head to Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., for advanced individual training to become generator mechanics. After that, the two will be assigned to the 3647th Maintenance Company in Blackstone.

Their recruiter might be a little biased, but he is confident they have what it takes to succeed in the Army.

“I know what it takes to make it through basic and I know they can do it,” Rhew said.



Virginia GuardPost



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On the Cover



Lt. Col. Lapthe Flora, commander of Task Force Red Dragon, provides command and control of his Soldiers during a capabilities demonstration in the village of Mogila in Kosovo. (Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, KFOR 8 Public Affairs)

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1 Virginian killed, 4 injured by IED in Iraq

Virginia National Guard Press Release

One Virginia National Guard Soldier was killed and four were injured by an improvised explosive device Oct. 26 in Iraq.

Spc. David E. Lambert, 39, of Cedar Bluff, Va., was killed by the explosion.

“The loss of this brave soldier is felt deeply by his fellow Guardsmen,” said Maj. Gen. Robert Newman, the Adjutant General of Virginia. “I know that all Virginians share the grief felt by his family, and I ask our fellow citizens to keep Spc. Lambert and his family in their prayers.”

Spc. Derek R. Banks of Newport News, Sgt. James A. Corbett of Poquoson, and Spc. Joshua G. Primm and Pfc. Eric T. Holt of Williamsburg, were injured in the attack.

All five Soldiers are assigned to the 237th Engineer Company, 276th Engineer



Spc. David E. Lambert

Battalion, 91st Troop Command based in West Point, Va.

“I am confident that these brave Guardsmen are receiving the best treatment our country has to offer,” Newman said. “We will endeavor to support them and

their families while they recover. I ask that Virginians continue to keep these Soldiers in their thoughts and prayers.”

Lambert, who was posthumously promoted to the rank of sergeant, was a combat engineer. He served as a squad automatic weapon operator and as a driver for Mine Protect Utility Vehicles.

Lambert was also posthumously awarded the Bronze Star, Global War on Terror Service Medal, Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal, Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge.

“The Virginia National Guard is honored to recognize the service and sacrifice of this brave patriot,” Newman said.

Newman went on to say that care for Lambert’s family and loved ones will be the focus of the Virginia National Guard and that the Virginia National Guard will support and stand by those affected by this tragic loss.

Exercise tests Virginia Army Guard’s vigilance

**By Sgt. 1st Class Erick Studenicka
National Guard Bureau News**

Eighty-eight Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers helped to defuse a simulated explosive situation during the second day of a Vigilant Guard training exercise Sept. 6 at Fort Belvoir.

It was a command post exercise designed for the National Guard, in coordination with local, state and federal agencies, to exercise its emergency response plans, policies and procedures during a simulated terrorist attack against the National Capital Region. Everyone worked together in Task Force Nova.

As it was responding to terrorist-caused explosions on the Woodrow Wilson Memorial Bridge between Virginia and Maryland and an explosion at the Colonial Pipeline in Fairfax, the task force of Soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division learned of an additional explosion in Alexandria that resulted in a train derailment and caused a chemical release.

The newly confirmed explosion meant additional Virginia Guard resources would have to be directed toward Alexandria, potentially hampering and complicating the National Guard’s response to the Wilson Bridge and Fairfax explosions.

The additional strain on resources was exactly what Vigilant Guard controllers and evaluators hoped to create as the exercise tested the preparedness and response of the National Guard to provide support to civil authorities. There were no actual lives in the balance during Vigilant Guard, but every participant realized that the potential for terrorist attacks, especially in the Washington region, is a very real threat and the National Guard

must prepare to respond to concurrent contingencies.

The training exercise ran Sept. 5-7 in Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia and included more than 300 National Guard Soldiers, Airmen, defense contractors and civilian officials.

“This exercise tests our ability to communicate, plan and implement our support and assistance to civilian authorities,” said 1st Lt. Eliana Walsh of the 29th Infantry Division. “It’s been stressed (by officials) not to view Vigilant Guard as an exercise, but as reality.”

Maj. Gen. Robert Newman, the Virginia National Guard’s adjutant general, emphasized to the task force that there are no second chances in a real-world contingency.

“None of us can afford to fail the next time the balloon goes up,” Newman said. “For the next (catastrophic) event, we’ve got to be ready.”

Newman said exercises such as Vigilant Guard give National Guard and state officials the opportunity to assess the Guard’s mission requirements for homeland defense.

“The exercise allows us to ensure that the missions, formations, personnel and equipment dedicated to a contingency are going to fulfill our obligations to the governor,” Newman said. “The exercises have been beneficial and have pointed out both our successes and our shortcomings so we can work to make those future successes.”

The Exercise Control Cell for Vigilant Guard was located in the Virginia Emergency Operations Center in Richmond. Joint Task Force Nova replicated lower echelon units.

Virginia Air Guard names Outstanding Airmen of the Year

By Lt. Col. Deb Magaldi
Virginia Air Guard Public Affairs

The Virginia Air National Guard has named its Outstanding Airmen of the Year.

Chosen as Airman of the Year and the Virginia Air National Guard's Overall Outstanding Airman of the Year is Senior Airman Nettie R. Siler of the 192nd Security Forces Squadron. Her commander, Capt. Keith Murphy, describes her as a "true asset and team player" that is highly respected by both subordinates and supervisors in the 192nd Security Forces Squadron.



**Senior Airman
Nettie R. Siler**



**Tech Sgt.
Jeffrey R. Hall**

The Virginia Air Guard's Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey R. Hall, a jet engine mechanic assigned to Detachment 3 of the 192nd Maintenance Squadron. Hall was the first guardsman to transition to the F-22A under the new associate-wing with the 1st Fighter Wing at Langley Air Force Base propulsion section. He put in place the groundwork for others to follow, according to his commander, Lt. Col. Cynthia Hall.

The top Senior Noncommissioned Officer of the Year is Senior Master Sgt. Govie A. Peebles with the 192nd Security Forces Squadron. As the 192nd Security Forces' training manager he has initiated several new procedures and programs, which have benefited both unit members and its leadership. According to his commander, Capt. Keith Murphy, Peebles' training initiatives have led to the unit's highest-ever training level.



**Master Sgt.
Govie A. Peebles**

The Virginia Air National Guard's First Sergeant of the Year is Master Sgt. Kevin A. Garrett, a traditional Guard member assigned to the 192nd Medical Group. Unit commander, Col. (Dr.) Greg Biernacki, describes Garrett as a self starter who identifies deficiencies and determines the best way to fix them.



**Master Sgt.
Kevin A. Garrett**

The competition was tough and the review board's decisions did not come easily. A great deal of time was spent deliberating, according to former State Command Chief Master Sgt. John Iorio.

These are the most prestigious Air National Guard enlisted awards in the Commonwealth and these individuals are truly the 'best of the best of our enlisted corps.'

MTU helps Boy Scouts with marksmanship skills

Virginia Marksmanship Training Unit
News Release

Members of the Virginia Army National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit took their skills to the remote mountains of Western Augusta County, Va., Sept. 22-23 and assisted the Boy Scouts of America with the 2nd annual Stonewall Jackson Area Council NRA "Shootaround."

The BSA Venturing/NRA Shootaround was held at the Council Camp located in Swoope, Va. The event drew 72 young participants in the BSA-sponsored Venturing program.

Over 40 adult volunteers played a big role in organizing an outstanding program of Rifle, Pistol, Air Rifle, Archery, Black Powder-Muzzle Loading and Shotgun activities.

As an added program feature this year, the co-ed youth were able to try their hand at fly-rod casting and fly-tying. Saturday evening, a bonfire was held where various awards were presented.

Demonstrations and displays of handmade Indian flutes and a SWAT team weapons display filled the evening program.

The two members of the MTU, Maj. Mike Martin, state marksmanship coordinator, and Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Reynolds, assistant state marksmanship coordinator, provided basic pistol marksmanship instruction to the youth, using .22 caliber semiautomatic pistols.

The marksmanship events were tied to advancements in both Venturing and Boy Scouting requirements.

"Teaching the marksmanship fundamentals to a young member of this organization is particularly rewarding because these young men and women clearly have an interest in shooting," said Reynolds.

Martin noted that "many of these youth had never fired a handgun before today, and some came to our station with a certain amount of trepidation about handling a firearm. I think all of them left with a



Photo courtesy of Va. Marksmanship Training Unit
Sgt. 1st Class Jerome Reynolds assists a young Venturer with the pistol.

very clear appreciation for the handgun, and everyone learned the basics of safe firearms handling and the marksmanship fundamentals. The added benefit to our presence there was that of raising the awareness of some of the competitive shooting opportunities within the Virginia Guard."

Mother, daughter duo tackles basic training together

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Coyne
Virginia Guard Public Affairs

Wanda Seate and Ashley Elliott were among a group of future Soldiers who left the Fort Lee Military Entrance Processing Station for basic training Oct. 25. But while everyone else was heading off to Fort Jackson with strangers, this mother-daughter duo from South Boston, Va., was preparing to look out for each other for the next nine weeks.

"I always wanted to serve my country but my family came first," Seate, a 40 year old registered nurse, said. So with two young daughters at home, she decided to focus on her family and her civilian career.

It wasn't until last spring, when a recruiter came by and spoke to her daughter about the benefits of joining the Virginia



Photo by Staff Sgt. A.J. Coyne, Virginia Guard Public Affairs

Wanda Seate (left) and Ashley Elliott (right) are briefed by Maj. James Galluzzo at the Fort Lee MEPS before shipping out for basic training at Fort Jackson, S.C.

Army National Guard, that she revisited the idea of joining.

As Seate listened to the recruiter describe to her daughter all the benefits of

military service, she encouraged Elliott to enlist. Then Seate mentioned how much

See Basic Training on Page 15

1-111th Fires Bn. preps for water operations

Courtesy of 1-111th Fires Battalion

For the first time in more than 50 years, 29th Infantry Division Soldiers employed landing craft. Soldiers from 1-111th Fires Battalion cross-trained with active duty troops from the 1098th Transportation Company during October's drill weekend.

Working together, Army soldiers labored for three hours loading, securing, and transporting Blue Force Tracker equipped rolling stock, equipment, and 25-personnel from Mulberry Island to the Reserve Fleet in the middle of the James River and back safely.

For some soldiers, "Army-yachting" out into the James River was their first time on a boat as well as their first close up view of the Reserve or "Ghost" Fleet.

As the principal reaction unit for state emergencies, the Fires Bn. Incident Response Force (IRF) is continuously fusing non artillery-related skill sets into its training calendar in order to meet the mission requirements necessary for homeland defense.

Training over the past six months has integrated hands-on chainsaw instruction and tree removal, rappelling, hand-to-hand defense tactics, Blue Force Tracker (FBCB2) applications, and familiarity exercises with multiple transportation systems by land, sea, and air.

"The concept for today's marine operations is two fold; expose our IRF-team to alternate forms of military transportation and interaction with our active component counterparts posted here in Virginia," said Capt. Fred Moore, commander of Headquarters



Photo by Capt. Fred Moore, HHB, 1-111th Fires Battalion

A Fort Eustis Soldier guides a HMMWV from the Virginia Guard's 1-111th Fires Bn. onto dry land during October's training on the James River.

Battery, 1-111th Fires Bn.

"Virginia has over 2,000 miles of navigable coastline and we should take advantage of that avenue of approach. If there were ever an incident I can guarantee every primary road will be congested. With the LCM-8 landing craft, every river with a boat dock or beach becomes a highway for the IRF."

192nd FW activates at Langley

By Senior Airman Meaghan McNeil
192nd Fighter Wing Public Affairs

Members of the 192nd Fighter Wing made their move to Langley Air Force Base official during the 192nd FW's activation ceremony, held at the 27th Fighter Squadron Oct. 13.

The ceremony enacted the 192nd's activation order given Oct. 1, transferring the 192nd FW from the Richmond International Airport in Sandston, Va., to Langley.

As part of the Total Force Integration, the merging of the 1st Fighter Wing and the 192nd FW serves several purposes, including a way to best use manpower while saving taxpayer dollars, according to Lt. Gen. Craig R. McKinley, Air National Guard director.



Photo by Master Sgt. Carlos J. Claudio, Va. Air National Guard

The squadrons making up the 192nd Fighter Wing stand ready for the unit activation ceremony Oct. 13 at Langley Air Force Base. The 192nd Fighter Wing is now officially integrated with the 1st Fighter Wing as an associate wing.

"The National Guard Bureau is very proud of the Commonwealth of Virginia for this very visible move from Richmond to Langley," said McKinley as he thanked the commanders here for welcoming the 192nd to Langley.

At Langley, the 192nd FW will serve as a classic associate wing, which is comprised of not only drill-status Guardsmen, but also full-time, Active Guard Reserve and military technicians who support three different missions: the Combat Air Force Logistics Support Center, the 480th Intelligence Wing Distributed Ground System and the 1st FW's air dominance mission, the F-22A.

Because of the 192nd's gradual integration with the 1st FW, the Guard unit has had the opportunity to contribute to the total force teaming on every Raptor deployment since May 2005, including Exercise Northern Edge in Alaska, the Raptor's first Red Flag at Nellis Air Force Base, Nev., and even the F-22A's deployment to Kadena Air Base, Japan, said Col. Jay Pearsall, 192nd FW commander.

The colonel thanked Brig. Gen. Mark Barrett, 1st Fighter Wing commander, for his "outstanding team of professionals and warmly welcoming (the 192nd) to the Langley total force team."

"It's the way it ought to be," said Barrett. "I've been flying and fighting with my Guard and Reserve brothers for my whole career; we can't do it without them."

As a result of the 192nd's activation at Langley, several units from the wing will inactivate in late October, including the 192nd's Services Flight, Communications Flight, Civil Engineer Squadron, Logistics Readiness Squadron and Dets. 2 and 3.

"It is my goal that Virginia stays on the tip of the spear," said Maj. Gen. Robert Newman, the Adjutant General of Virginia. "The move of the 192nd Fighter Wing to Langley does just that. The 192nd is a great unit, made up of great people. I believe it is these people who make the mission successful, not the location. I know that generations from now Virginians will view this move as one of the greatest steps towards positive change."



Photo by Master Sgt. Carlos J. Claudio, Va. Air National Guard

Maj. Gen. Robert B. Newman Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, hands the 192nd Fighter Wing guidon to Col. Jay M. Pearsall, 192nd Fighter Wing Commander, during the unit's activation ceremony at the 27th Fighter Squadron Oct. 13.



Photo Spc. John Wood, 29th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, Maj. Gen. Arthur Wyman, and Brig. Gen. Grant L. Hayden salute during the 29th Infantry Division change of command ceremony Sept. 16 at Fort Belvoir.

Hayden takes command of storied 'Blue and Gray'

By **Julia LeDoux**
Fort Belvoir Eagle

Command of one of the Army's most storied divisions changed hands here Sept. 16 during a time-honored ceremony filled with both pride and patriotism.

The sound of cannon fire, the National Anthem, and the cry of "29, Let's go!" rolled over P-1 Field as Outgoing 29th Infantry Division Commander, Maj. Gen. Arthur Wyman handed over leadership of the division to Brig. Gen. Grant L. Hayden.

The 29th, or the "Blue and Gray," as the division is known, is an Army National Guard division headquartered on the installation and includes units from Virginia and Maryland. The division's

Soldiers have supported the Global War on Terror in Iraq and Afghanistan, supported peace operations in Bosnia and elements current are deployed to Kosovo. In World War II, its Soldiers landed on Omaha Beach at Normandy on D-Day, liberated France and continued battle into Germany until World War II in Europe was won.

Commanding General of the First U. S. Army, Lt. Gen. Russel L. Honoré, officiated at the change of command.

In their remarks, Wyman, Hayden and Honoré paid special tribute to the Soldiers of the 29th who have given their lives in the Global War on Terror, promising that the memory of their dedicated service would never be forgotten. The men also paid tribute to the Soldiers who stood before them.

Pointing to the Soldiers in the ceremonial formation, Honoré said, "More than 60 percent of these Soldiers have been deployed. America knows it's at war when National Guardsmen deploy. It takes a great commitment and these National Guardsmen have

shown that they are truly great Americans.

Hayden enlisted in the Maryland National Guard in 1970 as a supply specialist and attained the rank of staff sergeant before attending Officer Candidate School. He received his commission in June 1977 as a second lieutenant, with a basic branch of infantry. A graduate of the Infantry Basic and Advanced courses, the Command and General Staff Course, the Pre-Command Course and the U.S. Army War College, Hayden has held operational assignments at virtually every level of the Maryland National Guard, including key staff positions and brigade and battalion commands.

"It is an honor and privilege to stand before you as the commander of the 29th," he said.

He then turned to Wyman and said, "You left me with a great division. We are ready to do whatever mission is placed before us."

"It has been truly an honor and privilege for me to have served as commander of this division," Wyman said. "I would like to say it has been my honor to represent the wonderful men and women of the 29th."

Wyman began his military career in 1966 and was commissioned a second lieutenant the following year when he graduated from Artillery Officer Candidate School.

After his active-duty service, Wyman entered the Massachusetts Army National Guard in 1974, where he served in a variety of command and staff positions at battalion, brigade and state headquarters level. Wyman commanded the 1st Squadron, 110th Armored Cavalry, 26th (Yankee) Infantry Division and the 26th (Yankee) Infantry Brigade (Light). He took command of the 29th in September 2004.

COMING TO AMERICA!**Virginia Guard family helps Iraqi family start new life in U.S.**

By Sgt. John Slosser
116th IBC T Public Affairs

They arrived! It was a different and foreign place. He looked at his wife, his five children and their luggage, all they had. It was the beginning of a whole new life in a whole new land.

Iraqi translators who work for the United States military provide an extremely valuable service, but these Iraqis also take on considerable risk for themselves and their families.

In light of this, these interpreters are often granted a special immigrant visa to the United States.

One Fredericksburg area family is playing an integral part in helping a couple of Iraqi families get on their feet in America.

"When I first got here (the International Zone) Nima was working for me, and he told me he was going for the special immigrant

visa. I asked him, 'Do you have a location to live, do you have a job locked down?' He didn't have anything," said Maj. Sean Malloy, a Virginia National Guardsman serving in Baghdad's International Zone.

"He didn't care, he just wanted out of the red zone. He didn't care if he landed in the middle of D.C. with just his bags. I emailed all that to my wife, and she took it from there."

Malloy's wife went to work at Chancellor High School and asked for help taking care of the family. Malloy's sister also chipped in, by taking the house she was trying to sell off the market so Nima's family could live there temporarily.

"They have the money, but he couldn't rent a home until they get all their paperwork in and that could take a few weeks," said Malloy. "They can't even get an apartment until they get their Social Security cards in."

When Nima's family arrived, Malloy's

wife rented a 15-passenger van to pick them up. People donated items such as dishes and furniture. One Fredericksburg store contributed a dining room table with chairs.

"Mrs. Malloy (Tammi) is always there whenever we need anything! By the way, we should not forget that she already has four lovely kids of their own and a full-time job as a teacher. We get extra support from Tammi's friends on a daily basis," said Nima Z. Motashar, the former Joint Area Support Group deputy director of Community Affairs. "I would like to thank them so much for all the help. This is the least I could say about what they have done for my family and me. Thanks Sean and Tammi!"

Malloy's four daughters also helped in introducing the Iraqi family to their new life.

"My family loves the kids; they are trying to work around the language barrier.

My oldest and his oldest are trying to teach each other the language. They try and translate between them," said Maj. Malloy. "My youngest hadn't figured out that they don't speak English yet and she is quite the little talker, just talk, talk, talk. Nima's family was just looking at her and smiling and I guess she thought that they were agreeing with her or something."

Malloy's generosity is not limited to helping one Iraqi family. He is also hosting another Iraqi couple and their three year old in his basement.

"Iraqis like Nima are very driven and very action oriented and now he is stuck in the wait for Social Security Cards and Green Cards," said Malloy.

"It is a slow process, but he sends a whole lot of thanks."



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, 116th IBC T Public Affairs

Nima Z. Motashar, (center) his wife and five children, and Maj. Sean Malloy's four daughters pose for a group-shot in the United States. The former JASG Deputy Director of Community Affairs recently relocated his family from Iraq to America.

Task Force Normandy heads out for duty in Iraq, Kuwait

By Capt. Nevin Blankenship
Task Force Normandy

The 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry, also known as Task Force Normandy, held its departure ceremony on Sept. 12th at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Center's Dogwood Lake.

The battalion, which was mobilized for active federal service on June 23rd, had been training at Camp Shelby since late June and recently completed an 85 day training cycle prior to deploying to Kuwait and Iraq.

Units from the battalion are based in several northern Virginia communities with the headquarters being in Winchester. Locations of other armories include Charlottesville, Harrisonburg, Woodstock, Warrenton, Leesburg, Manassas and Fredericksburg.

The 3-116 Infantry is the largest battalion-sized element to deploy from the Commonwealth of Virginia thus far in support of the Global War on Terror. Altogether, the battalion will field over 800 Soldiers.

The battalion commander, Lt. Col. John M. Epperly talked about the significance of the deployment.

"It's an historic moment for us," Epperly said. "This is the first deployment for the battalion since we reorganized as part of a brigade combat team. We have the whole team for this mission to include our Forward Support Company, Foxtrot Company of the 429th Brigade Support Battalion. This is a watershed event in the history of both the battalion and the Stonewall Brigade."

Upon arrival in theater, the battalion will relieve the 2nd Battalion, 142nd Field Artillery from the Arkansas National Guard and assume control of all security force (SECFOR) operations in southern Kuwait.

The mission in Kuwait will provide force protection to strategic assets such as the deep water ports used as the conduit for supplies coming into theater. The battalion will also conduct numerous other missions in conjunction with the Kuwaiti Ministry of Defense.

In addition, three companies from 3-116th will be sent north to provide security to convoys traveling in Iraq. A, B and C companies will be the units moving north into Iraq and they will remain there throughout their tour of duty. In fact, A and C companies departed from Camp Shelby early due to needs in theater.

The training at Camp Shelby was long and arduous in the Mississippi summer heat. The units of the 3-116th Infantry trained for both convoy security as well as force protection missions.

The Soldiers also spent time learning about the language and culture they would encounter in Iraq and Kuwait.

According to Command Sgt. Maj. Alan M. Ferris, the training was very useful.



Photo by Sgt. Jackquiline Herring, Task Force Normandy

Spc. William Byram of New Market, Va., spends time with his daughter, Alexis before leaving on a yearlong deployment with 3-116th Infantry.

"I'm very happy with the training support we received from Camp Shelby and 1st Army," Ferris said. "We were able to complete a great deal of training in mounted operations which was a challenge for us since we are dismounted light infantry. I'm so proud of our Soldiers and how they have performed."

That sentiment was echoed by Spc. Andrew Foglesong from Fredericksburg.

"The training was hard, but I learned a lot," Foglesong said. "I especially liked the HUMVEE roll-over trainer. I never realized how hard it was to get out of an overturned vehicle. I think that training may save someone's life."

During the ceremony both Maj. Gen. Robert Newman, the Adjutant General of Virginia, and Epperly noted the storied history of third battalion. They remarked that in the 265 year history of the battalion, the unit had earned 39 campaign or battle streamers.

Most recently, the unit deployed to Afghanistan where it fought as part of Operation Enduring Freedom in 2004 and 2005. Two members of the Headquarters Company — Staff Sgt. Craig Cherry, 39, of Winchester, and Sgt. Bobby Beasley, 36, of Inwood, West Virginia. — were killed in action during that deployment.

Following the ceremony at Camp Shelby, 3-116 Infantry departed once again to earn their 40th campaign streamer and make more history in support of America's Global War on Terror.



Photo by Sgt. David Begley, Task Force Normandy

Lt. Col. John M. Epperly, the 3-116th battalion commander, presents Lt. Col. Chuck Jackson, 3/349th LSB battalion commander, with a copy of the battalion colors for his hard work and training support.

New commander takes reins of 203rd Red Horse



Photos courtesy of Virginia Air National Guard

Lt. Col. Paul D. Julian (center) passes the 203rd Red Horse Squadron guidon to Brig. Gen. Bill Busby, the Virginia Guard's assistant adjutant general for Air, during the change of command ceremony Aug. 11. Lt. Col. Scott A. Hill (left) stands ready to take command.

**By Lt. Col. Deb Magaldi
Virginia Air Guard Public Affairs**

Lt. Col. Scott A. Hill took command of the 203rd RED HORSE Squadron during a change-of-command ceremony on Aug. 11 at Camp Pendleton in Virginia Beach.

The 203rd RHS, a Virginia Air National Guard unit, provides a highly mobile, rapidly deployable, self-sufficient civil engineering response force for mobilization to augment the Air Force and Army in the event of national emergency or war. The unit has also provided assistance to the Commonwealth and other Eastern Seaboard states in the aftermath of hurricanes.

Hill was commissioned in 1987 into the Mississippi Air National Guard after graduating from Mississippi State University on a four-year Air Force ROTC scholarship.

While in the Mississippi ANG, he was assigned to the 255th Air Control Squadron and the 238th Combat Communications Squadron.

Since transferring to the Virginia ANG in 1999, he has been assigned to the 192nd Fighter Wing, Sandston; the U.S. Joint Forces Command, Norfolk; and the 203rd RED HORSE Squadron.

In his civilian occupation, Hill works for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the Langley Research Center in Hampton, where he is the assistant branch chief of

the Structural & Thermal Analysis Branch.

He is also the co-lead of a NASA multi-center team of discipline experts responsible for developing the next generation of Lunar and Mars exploration vehicles.

Prior to working at Langley, he was a senior structural design engineer at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center and an aerospace engineer at the Naval Aviation Depot at Pensacola Naval Air Station, Florida.

In addition to his bachelor's degree in Mechanical Engineering from MSU, Hill also holds a master's degree in Mechanical Engineering from The George Washington University.

Since joining the VaANG, Hill served as a 192d Civil Engineering Squadron operations officer from January 1999 to March 2001, and a joint staff J-6 C4 (command, control, communications & computer system) plans action officer, from March 2001 to February 2004, at Joint Forces Command. In February 2004 he joined the 203d RHS as a civil engineer.

Hill becomes the fourth commander of the 203d RHS. He is one of the approximately 125 unit members to recently return from a deployment to Southwest Asia where the unit performed a variety of construction projects in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He takes command from Lt. Col. Paul D. Julian, who has served as unit commander since January 2004.

Julian is taking over Air Staff Personnel and Logistics (A-1/4) duties at the Joint Force Headquarters – Virginia, Air Component located at Richmond International Airport.

Julian holds a bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering Technology from Old Dominion University, Norfolk. He is a licensed Professional Engineer and Land Surveyor for Countryside Service Company, LC, a major land developer in the Shenandoah Valley.

He has participated in or led numerous deployments across the United States and to nine other countries. He took command of the unit shortly after it returned from its first mobilization to Southwest Asia. He oversaw 56 unit members, activated over Labor Day weekend 2004 and sent to Florida to assist in hurricane recovery; then led the 203d as it and its sister unit prepared for and carried out a successful Air Force Operational Readiness Inspection which ended just before preparation began for the October 2006 deployment to Southwest Asia.



Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, KFOR 8 Public Affairs

Soldiers from Task Force Red Dragon prepare to load up for aerial extraction after completing a capabilities demonstration conducted by Multi-National Task Force (East) in Kosovo. The purpose of the demonstration was to show the ability of MNTF(E) to rapidly deploy anywhere in their area of operations in the event of civil unrest.

Virginia Guard Soldiers complete mission in Kosovo

By Cotton Puryear
KFOR 8 Public Affairs Officer

The nearly year-long peacekeeping mission in Kosovo for more than 400 Virginia National Guard Soldiers came to an official end Nov. 2 with the transfer of authority ceremony held at Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo. The traditional exchange of guidons between Brig. Gen. Douglas Earhart of the 29th Infantry Division and Brig. Gen. John Davoren of the 35th Infantry Division marked the end of the KFOR 8 rotation that began Dec. 6, 2006.

Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers filled a number of different roles during the deployment. Soldiers from the 29th Infantry Division Headquarters provided command and control for the Kosovo Force's Multi-National Task Force (East), Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment made up most of Task Force Red Dragon and Soldiers from all over Virginia joined together to form the special Liaison Monitoring Team Company. Soldiers from the Maryland National Guard also contributed a number of Soldiers to the division headquarters.

Task Force Red Dragon was one of two maneuver task forces that conducted

regular patrols, vehicle checkpoints and humanitarian assistance activities. The LMTs served as the eyes and ears of the task force commander, keeping a pulse on the mood of the local population and working with local government to help improve quality of life for all the people of Kosovo.

The Serbian province of Kosovo has been under the administration of the United Nations since 1999, and the UN provides a peacekeeping force of approximately

16,000 Soldiers to help maintain security and freedom of movement for all citizens of the province. The United States is the lead nation for MNTF(E), one of five multi-national brigades serving in the Kosovo Force, which also has units from Armenia, Greece, Lithuania, Poland, Romania and Ukraine. The division headquarters, often referred to as Task Force Falcon, provided command and control for approximately 2,500 Soldiers.



Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, KFOR 8 Public Affairs

Soldiers from Task Force Red Dragon conducted more than 650 vehicle checkpoints during their time in Kosovo and their efforts took 16 "bad guys" off the streets and into the hands of local police authorities.

In addition to the primary security mission, the task force staff also planned and executed an aggressive humanitarian assistance program to help improve quality of life for all citizens. The task force also conducted information operations designed to influence the population to be patient during the Kosovo final status process and reject violent activities as a solution to the issues they are facing.

During the rotation, Soldiers in the task force conducted a total of 21 medical civil affairs programs (MEDCAPs). MEDCAPs consisted of basic health screenings, to include dental and optometry services. Over the course of the 21 MEDCAPs, more than 3,000 Kosovo citizens from all ethnic groups received medical screenings and assistance.

"In addition to meeting specific needs of our local communities, our humanitarian assistance efforts also helped us build a sense of trust with the population," said Col. Steve Scott, the MNTF(E) deputy commander for civil military operations. "That trust we built would have paid huge dividends if we ever had to contend with a crisis situation."

In his closing remarks at the transfer of authority ceremony, Earhart reflected on his 11 months in command and explained that the unit contributed nearly \$1,000,000 dollars in quality of life improvements for the people of Kosovo.

"That is something that will make a significant impact for years to come," Earhart said. "Because of our efforts, there is a new level of trust for the institutions in Kosovo and as the status process continues to run its course, we have helped make sure that the people of Kosovo continue to remain patient and give the status process time to work."

Earhart said that he is often asked by the news media about the security status in his area of operations. "The security status in our area is good, because the people want it to be that way," he replied. "The Soldiers of KFOR can provide a stable influence on the security situation, but Kosovo is more stable and secure today because that is what the people want it to be."

The task force information operations section influenced the population through contracted television and radio programming as well as through the production of magazines, billboards and handbills. The section produced 12 episodes of a TV Show called "Kosovo Now", produced 360,000 "Junior" magazines for distribution to young people throughout MNTF(E) area of

operations, conducted more than 750 hours of contract media radio shows and almost 100 hours of contract media television shows.

The contract radio shows were hosted by Soldiers from throughout the task force and were in a "music and message" format. Soldiers would play their favorite music and between songs they would convey messages stressing themes like patience, tolerance and rejecting violence.

Task Force Red Dragon

Task Force Red Dragon consisted of the Headquarters Company from Lynchburg, B Company from Lexington, C Company from Christiansburg and A Company of the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry from Agawam, Mass. Red Dragon Soldiers conducted nearly 6,200 patrols, more than 650 vehicle check points and more than 1,000 sphere of influence engagements. Red Dragon.

Lt. Col. Lapthe Flora, the commander of Task Force Red Dragon, saw the best way to accomplish their security mission was to develop a close working partnership with local law enforcement, the Kosovo Police Service. He also knew that it was important to demonstrate to both the majority Kosovo Albanian community and minority Kosovo Serbian community that violence and intimidation would not be tolerated.

Early in the rotation, Flora went to the regional KPS office and saw a chart that outlined the organization of the KPS in the area. Flora told the KPS chief that he

should have a dotted line that pointed to Camp Bondsteel to show his commitment to working in partnership with the KPS to ensure security in the area.

Red Dragon Soldiers were responsible for the Viti/Vitina municipality with a population of about 65,000. Of that population, 90 percent are Kosovo Albanian and about 8 percent are Kosovo Serbian. The last serious outbreak of violence in Kosovo occurred in March 2004, and the memories of ethnic intimidation during the riots are still vivid in the minds of the Serbian minority community.

"We wanted to give the minority community a sense of security," Flora said. "We did that not by talking, but by demonstrating our commitment. We listened to the concerns of the minority community and responded to them."

Each day Red Dragon Soldiers were out in the community conducting focused patrols, each with a specific task and purpose in terms of who the Soldiers were to engage and what result was expected as a result of the patrol. After finishing their focused patrol, Soldiers would often conduct vehicle checkpoint (VCP) operations where they would be on the lookout for "bad guys" identified by the KPS. As a result of Red Dragon VCPs, 16 individuals on the KPS "most wanted" list were taken off the streets, Flora said.

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Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, KFOR 8Public Affairs

Spc. Miranda Holbrook, an LMT Soldier, takes part in an impromptu soccer game during a school visit in the Viti/Vitina municipality in Kosovo.