



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Moore, 29th Infantry Division Guard Public Affairs

Walter Carter, the son of Capt. Elmer N. Carter who was a surgeon with the 29th Infantry Division, places a wreath at the gate opening that his father 60 years ago rushed through to save the life of a Soldier. The surgeon was struck down by sniper fire in what was then an apple orchard. Carter was taking part in the commemoration activities recognizing the 60th Anniversary of the D-Day Invasion in France. See the full story on Page 6.

For the latest news and information on the Virginia National Guard, visit
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Virginia GuardPost

Summer 2004



**Infantry
soldiers
get back
to basics**



Guard partners with Tajikistan



FROM THE TOP



Virginia committed to Tajik partnership

By Maj. Gen. Claude A. Williams
Adjutant General

In addition to overseas deployments in support of the Global War on Terrorism, force protection missions here in the United States, and contributing to the quality of life in the Commonwealth through community support efforts and the drug demand reduction program the Virginia National Guard has taken on a new mission. We are now fully engaged with the country of Tajikistan through the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program (SPP). We recently spent ten days in the Central Asia country of Tajikistan visiting with senior officials of the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Emergency Situations, Tajikistan National Guard, and the Prime Minister of Tajikistan as well as United Nation officials. This visit followed up on a visit to Virginia by senior officials of the Tajikistan government in April 2004.



Maj. Gen. Claude A. Williams

well being of their families; and they are committed to a bright and hopeful future.

There is a Tajikistan saying that a person must do three things in life. They must plant and raise a tree; build a house; and raise a child. All of these efforts speak to planning and preparing for the future. They certainly suggest hope in the future. One cannot plant and raise a tree without preparing the soil and then tending to the seedling; one cannot build a house without preparing the proper foundation and then using the best materials for the structure; and certainly

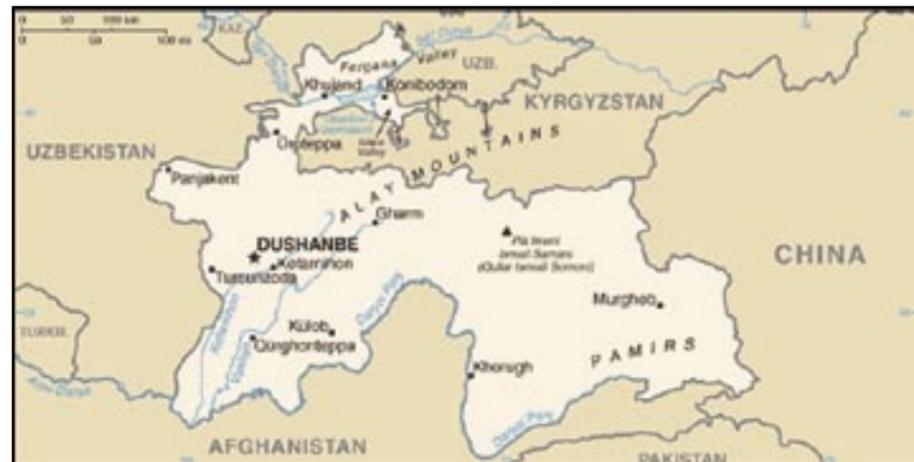
- The objectives of the SPP are:
- Improve military interoperability between United States and partner nation forces.
 - Demonstrate military subordination to civil authority.
 - Demonstrate military support to civilian authorities.
 - Assist with the development of democratic institutions.
 - Foster open market economies to help develop stability.
 - Project and represent United States humanitarian values.

There are 39 states and two territories participating in the SPP with Virginia being among the newest to the program. I am committed to the success of this cooperative effort between Tajikistan and Virginia. I found our visit to Tajikistan to be very educational and very worthwhile. I believe we all discovered there are more similarities between the Tajiks and Virginians than there are differences. I believe the people of Tajikistan are like us in that they want peace and security; they want an opportunity to provide for the

one cannot raise a child without a vision for the legacy that child will inherit. Our partnership with Tajikistan is grounded in this Tajikistan saying.

We are committed to ensuring the Virginia Guard properly prepares for our relationship with the people of Tajikistan and that we tend to that relationship to make certain it grows strong and reaches its objectives. We will make certain that a proper foundation for this partnership is put in place and the very best the Virginia National Guard can offer is used to ensure the program is solid and enduring. We believe this must be a mutually supporting and beneficial program between the people of Tajikistan and the people of Virginia. We are adamant that the people of Tajikistan and Virginia are equals in this program and that both the people of Tajikistan and Virginia will benefit from it.

I will make every effort to assure the same level of commitment that has gone into the Virginia National Guard's support to the Global War on Terrorism both at home and abroad and our effort to improve the quality of life in the Commonwealth and our communities goes into the State Partnership Program between the people of Tajikistan and Virginia.



Map courtesy of The World Factbook, Central Intelligence Agency

Tajikistan is located in Central Asia and has a population of approximately 6.5 million people. The capital of the country is Dushanbe and is where the Virginia State Partnership Program delegation recently visited.



On the Cover



Infantry soldiers from the 116th Infantry Regiment conducted rappelling training during AT. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Turney, Virginia Guard Public Affairs Office)

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Photo by Master Sgt. Bob Haskell, National Guard Bureau

Maj. Gen. Claude Williams, the adjutant general for Virginia, Maj. Gen. David Wherley Jr., commanding general of the District of Columbia National Guard, and Maj. Gen. Bruce Tuxill, the adjutant general for Maryland, signed a Memorandum of Understanding that enables those National Guard forces to serve together during a critical incident within the National Capital Region.

Guard leaders sign mutual aid agreement

By Master Sgt. Bob Haskell
National Guard Bureau

Had terrorists crashed an airliner into a target, such as the U.S. Capitol or the White House, in the District of Columbia on Sept. 11, 2001, the D.C. National Guard could not have legally asked for National Guard reinforcements from another state to help civilian law enforcement agencies restore order from the inevitable chaos.

Likewise, there was no legal means for D.C. National Guard troops on Title 32 or state duty status to roll out to support the Virginia National Guard after the Pentagon was attacked on northern Virginia soil.

That all changed on July 15 when leaders of the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia National Guard signed an historic mutual aid agreement making it possible for their people to respond to a "critical incident" in the National Capital Region.

The Memorandum of Understanding was signed by Maj. Gen. David Wherley Jr., commanding general of the D.C. National Guard, Maj. Gen. Bruce Tuxill, adjutant general for Maryland, and Maj. Gen. Claude Williams, adjutant general for

Virginia, during a brief afternoon ceremony at Fort McNair in Washington.

The document immediately makes it possible for National Guard troops to serve together, without having to be mobilized for Title 10 federal duty, in the National Capital Region that encompasses the District of Columbia, the Maryland counties of Prince George's, Montgomery and Frederick, and, in Virginia, the counties of Fairfax, Arlington, Loudoun and Prince William and the cities of Alexandria, Fairfax, Falls Church and Manassas.

The agreement has the same standing as the Emergency Management Assistant Compact that every state except California and Hawaii have signed and that makes it possible for Guard forces from one state to serve in the others during an emergency or disaster declared by a governor.

Now, it was explained, D.C. Guard troops can serve in Maryland and Virginia and troops from those states can serve in the district during an emergency declared by one of the governors or by the mayor of Washington using an approval process established by the president.

"Before Sept. 11, 2001, the general

consensus was that we had our territories. Maryland and Virginia didn't come into D.C., and we didn't go out to them. So we had to rethink some things," said Wherley who became the D.C. Guard's commanding general in July 2003.

"Now, if it's a military event we can go to work for General Jackman anytime," added Wherley, referring to Maj. Gen. Galen Jackman, commander of the Military District of Washington. Jackman also commands the National Capital Region's joint forces headquarters that was formed to support the U.S. Northern Command and the homeland defense mission.

"Certainly we're very much a part of what's going on here, and we've always been closely tied to this nation's capital, except for a brief period back in the 1800s," said Williams, generating a laugh. "But we remained just across the river even then.

"Clearly, anything that we can do to help and at the same time garner the resources of these other two entities to come to Virginia when something happens over on our side of the river is a win-win situation for all of us," Williams added.

Young gets historic promotion

By Staff Sgt. Tammy Spence
Staff Writer

On April 3, 2004, Lt. Col. Janice Barnes Young reached her long time dream of being promoted to colonel. She has been given the new task and title of Deputy Commander of Detachment 3 of the Virginia Army National Guard (VaARNG). Much to her astonishment, Young was also recognized for becoming the first female African American in the history of the Commonwealth of Virginia to hold the rank of colonel.

Young always wanted a career in medicine, more specifically; she wanted to be a physician. However during the era she was growing up in this was not a viable option for her to obtain. This didn't discourage this go-getter, though, who decided that the next best choice for pursuing her dream of medicine was to attain it as a nurse.

Young, who is a native of Goldsboro,



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Turney, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office

Maj. Gen. Claude Williams pins on Col. Janice Young's new rank.

N.C., decided to attend an in-state school. She began her undergraduate education at Winston State University, where she earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing. Once that was accomplished, she then went on to complete her Masters Degree in Public Health Nursing at the University of North Carolina, which is located in Chapel Hill, N.C.

Young currently works as a civilian instructor at Kimbrough Ambulatory Care Clinic at Ft. Meade, MD where she specializes in Education Performance and

Improvement for the clinical staff.

When asked how she felt about being the first African-American-Female in the VaARNG to achieve this rank, Young stated that "It is definitely an honor for me. It is something I have always wanted but wasn't sure it would happen before my mandatory removal date."

Young offered some advice to others, "After your reach your goal, set additional goals." She added "There are always opportunities and options and you have to reach for them."

Infantry unit arrives in Afghanistan

By Maj. Cotton Puryear
Army Guard Public Affairs Officer



Photo by Clement Britt / Times-Dispatch

As their convoy rolls through the village of Bagran, a member of Company C of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Virginia National Guard Division watches villagers on their return from a firing range outside Bagran Air Base, Afghanistan.

Soldiers from the Virginia National Guard's 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment are on the ground in Afghanistan, and two teams of journalists from the *Richmond Times Dispatch* and *Roanoke Times* are embedded with them. Both newspapers have been featuring frequent front page stories about the unit, and have established special links on their web sites for the coverage.

According to the reports from the journalists, soldiers from 3rd Battalion are currently located at Bagram Air Base and are preparing for future operations. The *Times Dispatch* reports that many of the soldiers will be travelling to Ghazni, about 100 miles south of Kabul, where they will be gathering intelligence, conducting patrols and manning traffic control points to help with the operation to prepare for upcoming elections.

The links for the special coverage from each newspaper are available at www.virginiaguard.com.

29th Soldiers remember D-Day lessons

Sgt. 1st Class David Moore
29th Infantry Division (L) PAO

Their hair is white now, and their steps have slowed -- but veterans of the historic D-Day invasion retraced their footsteps on "Bloody Omaha" with purpose, helping present-day Soldiers learn the lessons of the epic battle and gain answers to the question, "Why do we train?"

Nearly a dozen veterans and present-day 29th Infantry Division Soldiers began their quest for memories and answers on the coast of England, where the World War II unit trained among the hedgerows and on the moors for just short of two years for the Normandy invasion. The tour then launched for France, where voyagers linked up with another 75 D-Day veterans and 100 active Soldiers.

As part of D-Day's 60th Anniversary, today's light fighters not only attended ceremonies, but trekked through England's moors and France's battlefields. Field manuals came to life in the views of rugged hills and empty beaches.

"Being here, you are learning things everyday. When you are training in the field, you ask 'why are we training this way?' Spc. Amara Sakara, B Company, 1st-115th Infantry, said. "When you meet a veteran, see where they trained, and you see the fields of fire it gives you a greater appreciation for why we train the way we do. It's certainly the knowledge of basic soldier skills that can determine whether you live or die."

Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, commanding general of the 29th, used the mission as part of the division's training goals, bringing junior Soldiers to learn first hand the skills necessary to survive in battle.

All of the Soldiers participated in commemoration events from England to St. Lo, France. Between the solemn ceremonies of remembrance and recognition of those whose valor changed the course of history, there was time for the accounts of veterans who lived through the sand and blood of the invasion. There was time to walk the



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class David Moore, 29th Infantry Division Public Affairs

Near the National Guard monument at Grandcamp Maisy, a French child in era attire and Willys Jeep celebrates the return of Soldiers and veterans alike during a ceremony attended by hundreds of Americans and French.

battlefield along with Joseph Balkoski, author of the "Beyond the Beachhead: The 29th Division in Normandy," and the recently released "Omaha Beach D Day, June 6, 1944."

The division first arrived at Tidworth Barracks in October 1942, and the Soldiers were soon spread across Great Britain for what some veterans guessed was a hundred miles. Veterans of those training days all talked about their two 25-mile marches a week and training in the constant rain on the Moors of Dartmoor. Fog was another obstacle, white curtains that fell in seconds so thick Soldiers couldn't see the buddy next to them, Glenwood Hankins, 81, of Martinsville, Va., recalled.

"I will always remember my feet bleeding after each of the hikes," Don Koos, then with the 175th Infantry Regiment, of

Whiting, N.J., said.

At Dartmoor, where the division and other Army units trained, there stands a rock outcropping known to locals and veterans alike as Vixen Tor. From the top, the division commander, Maj. Gen. Charles H. Gehrhardt could look down from the peak and see entire battalions maneuvering and training in the area.

Thousands of British citizens cheered 29th veterans for the 60th anniversary of the invasion of Normandy as they made their way through the various disembarkation points that dotted the coastline on the road to France. Several ceremonies, most of which included the British Parachute Regiment World War II veterans, were held at Trebah Gardens and Falmouth.

Please see D-DAY, Page 12

Virginia delegation visits Tajikistan

By Lt. Col. Chester C. Carter, III
Virginia Guard Public Affairs Officer

In addition to supporting this country's Global War on Terrorism both at home and abroad, working to improve the quality of life here in the Commonwealth and answering the call when our communities are in need, the Virginia National Guard has assumed a new role in service to community, commonwealth, and country. The Virginia National Guard, through the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program, has begun a partnership with the Central Asia country of Tajikistan. Once a part of the Soviet Union, Tajikistan gained its independence in 1991. The nation of Tajikistan is recovering from a devastating civil war which lasted from 1992 through 1997. Maj. Gen. Claude Williams, Adjutant General of Virginia, is committed to supporting the Tajiks with that recovery in any way the Virginia National Guard can. He sees this relationship as one of equals. His expectation is that the Virginia National Guard will gain as much from this partnership as the Tajiks.

Williams just return from his initial State Partnership Program visit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan. Williams and members of his staff departed Va. for Tajikistan on June 25 and returned to the United States on July 4. Williams and his staff visited various Tajik Armed Forces agencies including the Ministry of Defense, Ministry of Emergency Situations, the Tajik National Guard, Tajik Border Guard and various Tajik military units. Each of these office calls produced potential ways for the Tajiks and Virginians take advantage of each others experience and leverage each others knowledge. Williams and his staff also visited the United Nations Development Programme office in Dushanbe as well as industrial,



Photo by Lt. Col. Chester C. Carter, III, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office
Lt. Gen. Azimov, chairman of the State Boarder Protection Committee, briefs Maj. Gen. Williams and Col. Mike Coleman, operations officer for the Virginia National Guard on Tajikistan Boarder Guard operations at the Boarder Guard headquarters in Dushanbe.



Photo by Lt. Col. Chester C. Carter, III, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office

Maj. Gen. Williams and Maj. Gen. Nadyrov at the conclusion of the formal State Partnership Program meeting held at Ft. Pickett this past April.

cultural and recreational sites. During his visit, Williams also had the opportunity to spend time with Ambassador Richard Hoagland, the US Ambassador to Tajikistan.

The purpose of this visit was to continue to establish, develop, and formalize the Virginia National Guard's relationship with the country of Tajikistan under the National Guard Bureau's State Partnership Program. The visit enabled Williams to conduct exchanges with Maj. Gen. Ramil Nadyrov, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Tajikistan; members of Gen. Nadyrov's staff; representatives of the Tajik Ministry of Defense; Tajik National Guard; Tajik Border Guards, and other government agencies. Gen. Nadyrov and members of his staff visited the Virginia National Guard in April of this year. During that visit Williams had an opportunity to brief Nadyrov and his staff on the capabilities of the Virginia National Guard.

There have already been some exchanges between the Tajiks and Virginians. Logisticians from Tajikistan have traveled to the United States to review US military processes for logistical management. Trainers and logisticians from the Virginia Army and Air National Guard have traveled to Tajikistan to exchange information and techniques with the Tajiks as well. Potential opportunities for the Tajiks to travel to Virginia to review consequence management operations are currently under consideration.

When it was established in 1993, the original intent of the National Guard State Partnership Program was to assist former Warsaw Pact nations gain an understanding of the workings of democracy including the citizen-soldier concept of the National Guard and a free market economy. The program has grown significantly over the last ten years. It now includes over 35 states, territories, and the District of Columbia which have established partnerships with countries around the world. Williams said that he is looking forward to a long lasting and strong partnership with Tajikistan that is beneficial to the Virginia National Guard as well as Tajikistan.

Annual training brings infantry soldiers back to basics

By Staff Sgt. Mark Turney
Staff Writer

After a long series of successful real-world missions, the Soldiers of 1st and 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment were back in the woods of Fort A.P. Hill for Annual Training this summer. Despite facing high humidity and temperatures in the upper 90s, these Soldiers were glad to be once again maneuvering in field training environment and gathered around sand tables preparing for infantry missions.

"Because of our other real world missions, we've gotten away from putting soldiers in the woods," said Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1 Battalion 116th Infantry First Sgt. Vince May, "We've been used in so many other roles that with this AT we are bringing our soldiers back to the basics."

Since 2000, members of May's unit have been deployed to the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, Utah to help provide site security; acted as guards at local airports following Al Qaeda's attacks on September 11th 2001; deployments to Guantanamo Bay, Cuba; and as Gate Guards at Fort Monroe.

It was because of these missions that the 1st Battalion re-instituted the Light Leaders and Light Fighters Courses for this year's AT. "The concept of the Light Leaders/Light Fighters course has been around

since the Division was established," said May, "It had to be put on the back burner when we started getting real phone calls."

The coursework for the Light Leaders/Light Fighters is designed to take both the leaders and lower enlisted back to those lessons learned at the infantry school Advanced Individual Training. Coursework included basic survival, reacting to indirect/direct fire, individual and team movement while under fire, basic patrolling and setting ambushes, rappelling and basic marksmanship plus many others.

"We got to shoot the M16, M249 and as many AT4's as we wanted," exclaimed Spec. Mark Carter, of B Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry.

For the first week of AT, the units were broken up into leaders and fighters. Typically, leaders meant squad and platoon leaders including officers, and the fighters consisted of the lower enlisted ranks. Mornings saw the leaders sitting in classes taught by a hand picked cadre; afternoons had the leaders training the light fighters and the evening saw the hard learned lessons put into practice until late in the evening.

After years of deployments and constant change, many of these soldiers had never worked together before so teamwork was emphasized on all levels of training. "These are infantry soldiers at their finest," said May, "They are like sponges waiting



Photos by Staff Sgt. Mark Turney, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office

to soak up all this knowledge and they are beginning to come together as a group. They are getting plenty of training and little sleep."

"This is my third AT and this is by far the most hardcore one yet. I've never been in a helicopter before," said Carter after being airlifted to Camp Cooke to officially begin the field training portion of the AT. "This was awesome," exclaimed Carter through a deep smile. "We've definitely been occupied with a lot to do."

Of the hard training and adversity endured throughout the training 29th Division Command Sgt. Maj. Sammy Herron said, "We all wear the Army uniform so we know things aren't always going to go smoothly. That's where this training is important. It teaches each of us to adapt to our environments."

In an environment that stressed learning to be leaders and better soldiers, this Annual Training can best be summed up in the words of Herron, "That's our strength, adaptation and overcoming adversity."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Mark Turney, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office

Infantry soldiers prepare for their next mission.



Spec. Mark Case (above right photo) lays covering fire for his battle buddy during lanes training as the 1st and 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment conduct Annual Training 2004 at Fort A.P. Hill, VA. This lane tested the ability of each two-man team to move under fire toward an objective. Spec. Kenny Nellums (above left photo) is evaluated as he and his battle buddy, both of the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry, negotiate the training lane "Team Movement Under Fire" during Annual Training 2004 at Fort A.P. Hill, Va. Nellums and other 'Light Fighters' worked through 95 degree weather and high humidity during the first three days of their annual training. 1st Lt. Jerry Blevins and Sgt. Marcus Case (right photo), both of B Company, 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, use a sand table to visually show the members of the ambush team various ingress and egress routes for the night's patrol.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammy Spence, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office

Posing with "Rolling Thunder" are Virginia Army National Guard recruiters (left to right) Pvt. Patrick Spainhour, Staff Sgt. Vince Ferguson, Master Sgt. Chuck Horton, and Sgt. Mike Cowen

Rolling Thunder rolls into Innsbrook After Hours

Staff Sgt. Tammy A. Spence
Staff Writer

Rolling Thunder, the Army National Guard's colorful Humvee, sat among the large throng of people gathering for the Lynyrd Skynyrd concert held at the Innsbrook Pavilion in May. Despite the heat and humidity in the late afternoon, the fans continued to pour in eagerly awaiting the show. With the doors open and the trunk lifted of the Humvee, Lynyrd Skynyrd tunes blasted from the speakers drawing the curious to take a closer look at Rolling Thunder.

In BDU trousers and white tee shirts stating "Virginia Army National Guard", the recruiters stood by ready to answer questions. According to Master Sgt. Chuck Horton, the Recruiting Noncommissioned Officer in Charge of Virginia's Recruiting Area Four, he has been working with Innsbrook After Hours for six years now. Horton said the presence of the Humvee has brought great success to developing leads for future recruits. Horton and the other recruiters, Staff Sgt. Vince Ferguson, Sgt. Mike Cowen and Pvt. Patrick Spainhour are at Innsbrook with Rolling Thunder every Wednesday from May through September. Horton said they average 3 to 7 "good leads" per week.

When asked what he tells those who show an interest in the Guard, Horton said, "Those willing to take the Armed Services Vocation Aptitude Battery or ASVAB and meet certain guidelines are eligible to join. Potential recruits are asked for a driver's license or other photo identification and if they commit, then they are given a tee shirt." Horton also has Recruiting Promotional Items that he gives away such as American flag key chains and

lanyards to attach ones keys on.

Rolling Thunder has been seen in many places. It is always at the Virginia State Fair, Chesterfield County Fair, and recently was in Washington D.C. for the Memorial Day Run. On the 4th of July it will be at Fort Pickett near Blackstone, Va. For those interested in having Rolling Thunder at their event, all they need to do is ask one of the Virginia Army National Guard recruiters to find out the procedures. When not in use the vehicle is housed at Fort Pickett.

One last question posed to Master Sgt. Horton was whether he ever gets asked if one can ride in it. Laughingly he said, "All the time but we have to tell them no because of regulations and insurance issues."



Photo by Staff Sgt. Tammy Spence, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office

A potential Virginia Army National Guard recruit completes an information card as Sgt. Mike Cowen and Pvt. Patrick Spainhour look on.

Va. Guard observes Earth Day

By Lt. Col. Chester Carter, III
Public Affairs Officer

Our Nation observes Earth Day every April 22nd. The Virginia National Guard and Ft. Pickett joined in that observance this year by inviting the residence in the surrounding communities to the Twin Lakes recreation area of Ft. Pickett to see, hear, and experience how the Virginia National Guard works to preserve our environment and natural resources. This year's program included games, displays, a nature trail, hayride, ornamental tree planting as well as food and refreshments. Over 250 students from Nottoway Middle School and Kenston Forest School, their teachers, and members of local communities were on hand when Maj. Gen. Claude Williams kicked off the program this morning.

Williams pointed out that as a commander of an engineer battalion in Kuwait during Desert Storm he was required to manage his unit in a way that was environmentally conscious. He pointed out that the Army has a responsibility to maintain the environment for future generations. He said that our resources are finite and the Army recognizes these



Photo by Lt. Col. Chester C. Carter, Virginia Guard Public Affairs Office

Tom Inge, Environmental Program Manager for the Virginia Army National Guard, shows some enthusiastic students of the environment the finer points of fishing.

resources have to be managed in a way that assures they will be available in the future. Responsible stewardship contributes to the accomplishment of the Army mission and supports the accomplishment of the Virginia National Guard mission. This commitment to stewardship is critical to the realization of the Virginia National Guard's goals. Programs such as the observance of Earth Day at Ft. Pickett give the Virginia National Guard an opportunity to work hand in hand with the community to teach our youth the importance of stewardship and caring for our resources.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality, Ft. Pickett Forestry Department, and Ft. Pickett Integrated

Training Area Management office joined with the Environmental Section of the Virginia National Guard Facility Management Office, and of course Smokey the Bear, to put this program together. Capt. Laura Caballero of the Facility Management Office Environmental Section worked for several weeks leading up to today's event with 1st Lt. James Shaver, Ft. Pickett's Integrated Training Area Management coordinator. The reward for their effort was the smiles on the faces of the youngsters there today and knowing that all that participated in the day's activities went away with a greater appreciation for the need to practice responsible stewardship of the finite resources the Earth has to offer.

Employees honored for service and support

In recognition of employee appreciation, the town of Blackstone together with the Virginia Department of Military Affairs hosted a cook out and awards ceremony in April.

Larry Palmore, Town Manager of Blackstone, gave a short speech thanking the Blackstone employees along with the National Guard for the outstanding work they do, especially citing the job well done after Hurricane Isabel and the quick restoration of the town of Blackstone in the aftermath.

Maj. Gen. Claude Williams presided over the ceremony and handed out the awards assisted by Brig. Gen. Bert W. Holmes. Williams spoke on the various types of employees here at Fort Pickett. "Whether they are Security on Fort Pickett or VAPA, everybody working together gets the job done" he said. In his view the awards ceremony is a small way to show appreciation for the employees here.

He wanted to come up with "innovative ways to help employees

monetarily" and the awards ceremony and cook out was a small example.

The awards ceremony consisted of presentations for employees serving for five, 15 and 20 years with each employee receiving a plaque and a blue and gold trimmed ceramic cup. Mary S. Sunderlin was recognized for 35 years of outstanding service to the Virginia Department of Military Affairs.

The Employee of the Year award went to Carolyn Slaw dispatcher for the Fort Pickett Police Department. Due to understaffing at the department this past year, Shaw worked double shifts and changed her days off to ensure schedule coverage, all without complaint.

The Team Impact Award for the group demonstrating outstanding performance was presented to the section of Department of Public Works/Roads and Grounds Branch of the Department of Military Affairs.

Task Force 429 continues the tradition

By Lt. Col. Chester Carter, III
Public Affairs Officer

Soldiers of the 429th Forward Support Battalion continue the tradition they began in February 2003 when their unit was validated as mission ready and they began their force protection mission at Ft. Meade, Md. They are among the approximately 600 29th Infantry Division Soldiers ordered to active federal service in January 2003 to provide force protection for Military District of Washington Army installations including Ft. Meade. While the units that were ordered to active federal service for the force protection mission were released from active duty around December 2003, some of the Soldiers from that mission continue to serve on active duty throughout Military District of Washington including 82 assigned to Task Force 429.

In technical terms the mission of Task Force 429 is "To deter, detect, and defeat a terrorist and criminal threat to the installation's strategic, operational, and tactical high risk targets." Among other requirements these soldiers are responsible for screening vehicle traffic coming onto Ft. Meade. On an average weekday 20,000 vehicles come through Task Force 429 checkpoints.

These Soldiers have served at Ft. Meade with distinction and have earned quite a reputation for themselves and the Virginia



Photo by Lt. Col. Chester C. Carter, III, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office

Spec. Charles Moore and Staff Sgt. John Lewis screen traffic coming on to Ft. Meade at one of several traffic control points operated by Task Force 429.

Army National Guard. In a recent article in the post's newspaper, Soundoff! the installation commander Col. John W. Ives is quoted as telling soldiers of Task Force 429, "I could not say it any better or be any more proud. You serve as our ambassadors to the public. You are all great Americans and great Soldiers."

Capt. Jesse Morehouse, commander of Task Force 429, told Maj. Gen. Claude Williams during Williams' visit to Ft. Meade in April the 429th mobilized 130 soldiers for Operation Noble Eagle III with all soldiers successfully completing post mobilization requirements and deploying for their mission. The unit was evaluated as a "GO" on its first Military District of Washington Provost Marshal Office access control inspection and Ft. Meade was recognized by the Commanding General of the Military District of Washington as

the model for access control in the National Capitol Region.

Morehouse also shared with Williams that the duty had not been limited to the force protection mission alone. The Soldiers and their leaders have used the mobilization as an opportunity to complete individual training that may not have otherwise taken place. Morehouse said that approximately 94% of the soldiers are now qualified in their duty position. The unit leadership has also been working with soldiers to retain them in the Virginia Army National Guard after they are released from active federal service.

The leaders of Task Force 429 also have a proactive family support initiative in place. A monthly Task Force newsletter keeps Soldiers and their families up to date on what is happening in the unit, both at Ft. Meade and at the unit's home station.

D-Day

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"We would not be living as we do today in our country that we are so proud of, without the bravery of those who fought for the freedom of this country 60 years ago," Lady Mary Holborrow, Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, said. "Today, we remember their sacrifices, their losses, particularly at Omaha Beach."

Michael Richards, 70, remembered the American Soldiers and how he would go

out near the Trebah Garden area and get candy from the Soldiers.

"What I remember most, though, is how quiet it was during the day here. But at night you could always hear the Soldiers marching and equipment like tanks rolling to the boats," Williams said.

As D-Day veterans linked up with their friends in France for commemoration ceremonies, present day 29ers crawled through the woods, into the giant hedgerows that often slowed the 29th Division infantry units from advancing on St. Lo -- a mission

in 1944 that was supposed to take a few weeks and turned into months.

In an area 17 miles inland from the famous Omaha Beach, Staff Sgt. Michael Sawchuck, of the 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 29th Infantry Division stood on his toes to peer over the base of the hedges. The heavy shadows along the side of a hedgerow turned the bright of day into twilight.

Upon peering over the wall, his only words looking across the field to the next set of massive hedgerows was, "Amazing."

Small Weather Flight makes big impact

By Maj. Debbie Magaldi
Air Guard Public Affairs Officer

The 200th Weather Flight is the smallest of the four separate units making up the Virginia Air National Guard. With only 23 people, they account for a mere 1.85 percent of the 1,239-strong VaANG. However, since Sept. 11, 2001, 16 of its 18 qualified members have performed mission-essential duties in support of critical U.S. military contingencies. Since then, these individuals have logged an incredible 4,092 days of active duty - that averages out to 227 days per qualified individual - not counting drill periods and annual training days. They did everything from supporting U.S. ground troops in Iraq to providing management and leadership training for ANG weather personnel nationwide.

Within hours of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack, the Weather Flight had equipment and personnel ready to support military activities anywhere in the state. Two members of the unit were mobilized to support Operation Noble Eagle activities, then involuntarily extended for two years in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The Weather Flight provided round-the-clock weather forecasting services and pilot and staff weather briefings for the 192d Fighter Wing's homeland defense missions for several weeks after Sept. 11, supporting the Wing's ongoing combat air patrol missions. In addition, the unit provided augmentees for duty in the 192d's Survival Recovery Center.

In the midst of this the Weather Flight commander became the first Air Guard weather officer to serve as the meteorological task force officer in support of ongoing peacekeeping efforts in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Lt. Col. Robert E. Wallace was the ranking weather officer in country, providing weather support and leadership for the U.S. Army's 29th Infantry Division and all joint task force units in country from November 2001 through February 2002. In addition, three unit members deployed as part of an Air Force Aerospace Expeditionary Force deployment to Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, to support Operation Southern Watch.

Also in this time frame, another Weather Flight member provided weather



Photo courtesy Virginia Air Guard Public Affairs Office

Protecting equipment from the desert sand was a continuing challenge for the weather forecasters. TSgt. Lowell Ivy, 200th Weather Flight, prepares a forecast with plastic sheeting protecting his computer at their tactical operations center in Kuwait.

observation and forecasting services for the Joint Task Force Olympics, in support of the 2002 Winter Olympics held in Salt Lake City, Utah. The weather support team worked out of Hill Air Force Base, near Ogden, Utah.

Activity (quite literally) heated up even more in 2003 as five WF members deployed with U.S. ground troops for the invasion of Iraq. The forecasters deployed with the 19th Air Support Operations Squadron, which supports the Army's 101st Airborne (Air Assault) Division, and served with the 101st in Baghdad. They served in the sands of northern Kuwait, and from Baghdad to Mosul. Sandstorms were so intense at times that personnel movement was restricted and daytime tasks as simple as visiting the latrine required a compass to ensure safe return to workcenters because of extremely limited visibility. The forecasters had to work with their equipment sheathed in plastic to keep the corrosive sand from ruining their electronics.

On the training front, the unit participated in four weapons-of-mass-destruction exercises at military locations within the Commonwealth with the 34th Civil Support Team. The flight took part in a two-week Warfighter command and control exercise at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and it deployed with and handled all forecasting

requirements for the aviation brigade of the Army's 29th Infantry Division during the division's annual field training at Ft. A.P. Hill. Additionally, unit members were among the first to complete a new field training program emphasizing tactical, communication and technical skills.

The 200th Weather Flight is a tenant guard unit at Richmond International Airport; its primary mission is to provide tailored weather observing and forecasting support to the Army's 29th Infantry Division (Light).

They work in and report on some of the most extreme weather conditions on earth. They've provided weather forecasting services for ground and air military training exercises as far north as upper New York during winter - in 50-degree-below-zero temperatures with heavy lake-effect snow. They've given weather advisories for ground troops in the deserts of Kuwait with temperatures reaching 124°, with no shade and blinding sandstorms driven by 30-40 knot winds.

This period of tremendous effort was recognized by senior VaANG leadership during the May drill when several unit members received official AF recognition, including MSgt. Lori W. Flinn, Weather System Manager, who earned the Bronze Star for her work while in Iraq.

Know the facts of the enlisted promotion system

By Staff Sgt. Mark Turney
Staff Writer

So, you think you have what it takes to get promoted. Are you sure? This article will discuss the enlisted promotion system from A – Z, for all ranks E-9 and below with a concentration on E-7 and below. Provided you haven't gained rank prior to your enlistment, this is the how, the what and the when of enlisted promotions.

According to National Guard Regulation (NGR) 600-200, "The Enlisted Promotion System (EPS) is designed to help fill authorized enlisted vacancies with the best-qualified enlisted soldiers who have demonstrated the potential to serve at the next higher grade."

Advancement to Private (PV-2/E-2)

You are eligible for automatic promotion to PV2 once you have completed at least 6 months Time-In-Service. Your time in service clock begins the very day you report for basic training. There are some caveats to this, so pay attention to the details.

You must be in a promotable status at the time of your promotion. In other words, you can not be flagged for a Physical Fitness test, be on weight control, or be pending Adverse Actions.

Advancement to Private First Class (PFC/E-3)

Your unit can promote you to PFC at any time after you meet the criteria. To advance from PV2 to PFC you must have at least 12 months Time-In-Service (TIS) and have a minimum of 4 months Time-In-Grade (TIG) as a PV2.

You can, at the unit commander's discretion, get a waiver for either TIS, TIG or both. The commander can authorize the

Enlisted Promotion Appraisal Worksheet (EPAW)		
	Performance Points	Potential Points
Military appearance and bearing	0- 15 points	NONE
Responsibility and Accountability	0- 25 points	0-30 points
Leadership	0- 35 points	0-70 points
Communication Skills	0- 20 points	0-30 points
Professional attribute	0- 20 points	0-30 points
Initiative	0- 25 points	0-30 points
Technical and tactical proficiency	0- 35 points	0-35 points
Total possible points: 400		

waiving of the TIS to a mere 6 months and TIG to 2 months for soldiers if he thinks you are deserving of a more rapid promotion. As with all ranks, you can not have any flags and in addition you may not have a Records Status of either H (awaiting discharge or transfer out of unit) or M (Inactive Status i.e. Individual Ready Reserve (IRR) or Inactive National Guard (ING)) and your Training Status can not be A (Non-prior service without Basic Training in a paid status), B (IDT in a non-pay status) or T (Active Duty status for training i.e... Basic Training).

Promotion to Specialist/Corporal (SPC, CPL /E-4)

Any soldier who wants to be eligible for promotion to either Spc. or Cpl. must be in a promotable status by not being flagged and must be in a valid Unit Strength Position and can not be in an over strength position. In addition, you cannot be in a records status of H or M. Also, your training status can not be in a status of A, B or T. If you meet all of the criteria your command can then promote you.

If you are already a Spc., meet the above standards and have served in a Sergeants (E-5) position for more than 6 months you

NCOES Requirements for Promotion	
Rank	NCOES
SGT	None
SSG	Primary Leadership Development Course (PLDC)
SFC	Basic Non-commissioned Officers Course (BNCOC) all phases
MSG/1SG	Advanced Non-commissioned Officers Course (ANCOC) all phases
SGM/CSM	United States Army Sergeants Major Course (USASMC)

are eligible for the rank of Cpl. Corporal is the first rank of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps. Welcome to the corps.

Promotion to Sergeant through Sergeants Major (E-5 through E-9)

Advancements from Sergeant through

Minimum Time in Grade and Service Requirements for Promotion		
Rank	TIG	TIS
SGT	6 months	N/A
SSG	8 months	N/A
SFC	11 months	9 years
MSG/1SG	12 months	13 years
SGM/CSM	14 months	16 years

Schedule for Enlisted Promotion Board:			
Rank	NBR4100's To Major Command (MACOM)	Suspense To The Adjutant General	Promotion Board Date
SGM/CSM	15 July	21 October	1 November
MSG/1SG	15 August	21 November	1 December
SFC	15 September	21 January	1 February
SSG	15 October	21 March	1 April
SGT	15 December	21 May	1 June

Sergeants Major are filled through the EPS throughout the entire state. Your state headquarters (Joint Task Force, Virginia) will provide your unit with a National Guard Bureau form 4100, which is known as an Enlisted Promotion Point Worksheet, for each soldier that is eligible for promotion that year as of the day of that year's board date. In other words, if your TIS and TIG requirements are met on the day the board meets, you are eligible to be considered for the board. The important thing to remember is that Non-commissioned Officers Education System (NCOES) requirements changed on January 1, 2004 (see Table 2). No longer is it necessary for a Spc. or Cpl to attend PLDC to be considered for promotion to Sgt.

The detail involved in promotion in the NCO ranks is often time consuming but very necessary. In the NCO ranks you have to put together NCO Promotion Packets for each grade advancement. Once the unit receives the NGB 4100 for each soldier, the commanders are to review each eligible soldier's promotion potential. The commander will at that time determine whether or not the soldier will be considered or denied promotion. At the same time, the soldier's first line supervisor should be reviewing the administrative information and points with the individual to insure accuracy. After it has been determined by your command that you will be eligible for advancement, a minimum of three levels of your chain of command will fill out an Enlisted Promotion Appraisal Worksheet (EPAW). The worksheet specifies the soldier's potential in the following areas and points are awarded in each category:

How promotion points are awarded:		
Category	Possible Points	Max Points
TIG	5 points per year	75
TIS	3 points per year	75
Awards	75 total	75
Weapons Qualification	25-Marksman	
	50-Sharpshooter	
	75-Expert	
APFT	75 Maximum	75
Resident Courses – does not include BT, AIT, OSUT, OBC, USMA Prep School	5 points for each 40 week	75
Self Development Courses	1 point per each 5 credit hours, 5 additional points for completion of sub-courses consisting of 5 books and/or 25 hours of training	75
Post-secondary courses	1 point per hour up to the first 60 hours. Award 60 points for associate degree, 75 points for baccalaureate or higher. For 61 hours but no degree, no more points are awarded. Soldiers can be awarded 1 point for every 16 hours taken for courses taken as part of their full-time employment (75 Points max)	75

These evaluation forms are to be kept confidential from the soldier.

There are many elections to be made on the NGB 4100 such as the distance you are willing to drive to accept the promotion, which of your Military Occupational Specialties (MOS) you want to be considered for promotion in and a new addition of Battalion only. Battalion only insures that you will stay within the specified Battalion although your specific

unit may change. Once all promotion points are verified and elections are signed by the soldier, the NGB 4100 and the EPAW sheets are added to the Promotion Packet.

There is also no longer a requirement to have a DA photo in the promotion packet unless you are applying for either a First Sergeant's position or a Sergeants Major position. If this is the case, the photo must have been taken within the 12 months before the board convenes.

Virginia National Guard Federal Deployments

# *	Unit	Where Deployed	Home Town
48	192nd Fighter Wing, 200th Weather Flight and 203rd REDHORSE	Various locations	Sandston and Virginia Beach
570	3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment	Afghanistan	Winchester, Manassas, Woodstock, Leesburg and Warrenton
25	54th Field Artillery Battalion	Afghanistan	Sandston
30	229th Engineer Battalion	Awaiting overseas deployment	Fredricksburg
9	Joint Force Headquarters - Virginia	Awaiting overseas deployment	Blackstone
180	3647th Maintenance Company	Iraq	Blackstone and Richmond
525	276th Engineer Battalion	Iraq	Richmond, Powhatan, Richlands and West Point
60	various units	Ft. Pickett	
55	various units	Army Guard Readiness Center	

* All listings for numbers of Soldiers are approximate.