



*Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, Virginia Guard Public Affairs*

A Soldier from 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment fires an AT-4 anti-tank weapon at a tank hull on a range at Fort Pickett and hits his target (inset photo). See more photos of summer training at Fort Pickett on pages 8 and 9.

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FROM THE TOP



# Transformation nothing new for Virginia Guard

We hear a lot about transformation of the National Guard these days. The first question that probably comes to mind is "Why change, why transform? After all, we are doing well just the way we are!" There are a couple of responses to that. First, organizations that cannot or will not adapt to their environment will fail. Our environment is constantly changing whether we know it or not. Second, transformation is not really new for the Virginia National Guard. Throughout its history TEAM VIRGINIA has changed and adapted to its environment and accomplished its mission. We have continually moved forward so we are not left behind. I am committed to seeing that tradition continue.



Maj. Gen. Claude A. Williams

Even though the US military went through significant downsizing to reap the benefits of the "peace dividend" it remained configured to fight the Cold War. Cold War doctrine taught us there would probably be political and military events that served as precursors to large scale military build-ups and conflicts. These events would trigger the mobilization of the National Guard and there would be adequate time for post mobilization training after units mobilized. Large formations based on the division would be necessary to conduct the air-land battle which would be fought on highly urbanized terrain in northern and central Europe. Our paradigm of how this nation would fight its next war remained essentially unchanged until 2001. The experience of our recent past teaches us our situation has changed radically.

The events of September 11, 2001 touched so many facets of life in the United States and around the globe. Make no mistake about it; we went to war on that day and that war will continue into the foreseeable future. The Global War on Terror is a war this country and the world must win.

September 11, 2001 is the catalyst for profound change across our military. Since that date we have seen our own Soldiers and Airmen deployed across the full spectrum missions that may be assigned to the Virginia Army and Air National Guard

including guarding our commercial service airports, hunting terrorist in Afghanistan, guarding terrorist in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, supporting Air Expeditionary Force missions, and disaster recovery operations in response to Hurricane Isabel.

Today tactics and the skill sets of each of the armed services are being leveraged to take advantage of the synergy of joint operations. Special operation units that can deploy around the globe in a relatively short period of time and use technology to bring the warfight to our enemies are becoming more prominent on the battlefield. The brigade is emerging in place of the division as the principal land warfighting formation. The combat power a brigade combat team can generate in a joint environment is overwhelming.

But transformation is not new to the Virginia National Guard. It is the result of visionary, enlightened thinking and the professional, practical implementation of new concepts. In 1607 settlers established a militia to provide for the common defense of Jamestown and the Virginia National Guard has been changing ever since. We

adapted to radical changes in battlefield formations during the Revolutionary War and responded to changes in battlefield technology during the Civil War. Federal legislation and increased federal funding in the early years of the 20th Century through World War I gave rise to how the National Guard would support the defense of this country.

World War II brought about profound changes in National Guard divisions as they transformed from four to three brigade formations. These changes were taking place even as our divisions were preparing for war. The late 1950s saw additional changes in division configurations with the 1960s seeing a decline in the overall number of National Guard divisions. The Total Force Policy of the 1970s radically changed the way America would go to war in the future with the 1980s witnessing the result of that policy change as the National Guard became ever more a partner with the active component. In the 1990s the National Guard demonstrated its ability and commitment to the defense of the United States while simultaneously downsizing. Today the National Guard's prominent role in the Global War on Terrorism is obvious.

My point is this; in order to remain ready, relevant, and essential to this nation's defense the National Guard must transform and meet the ever changing demands of our environment. We must be visionary; prepared to leverage advantages; and seek new opportunities to support our state and federal mission. If we do not do these things we will be left behind. TEAM VIRGINIA has a tradition of embracing change and successfully transforming, so this should be another chance to succeed.

There has always been the vision to accomplish the mission through innovation and creativity. That vision and the ability to adapt to a changing environment have assured TEAM VIRGINIA has always been and will always be ready, relevant, and essential. The Commonwealth's community based military force - Serving Since 1607.



## On the Cover



Retired Virginia Army National Guard Brig. Gen. Terry J. Tyler was one of many former members of the 29th Division Artillery on hand for the unit's final shoot on June 21. (Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs)

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### Virginia GuardPost

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# Governor approves restationing plan

By Maj. Cotton Puryear  
Army Guard Public Affairs Officer

Virginia Gov. Mark Warner has approved the Virginia Army National Guard's restationing plan that will transform the Army Guard in the Commonwealth to help it better meet the challenges facing today's military. Under the restationing plan, Virginia will change where some units are located and what kind of units are in each armory location as new units are created, some existing units are reorganized, and some units are eliminated.

The transformation in Virginia is part of a larger transformation process taking place throughout the Army as it converts its force structure to the Army's Modular Force. The change is taking place both among active duty and reserve component organizations.

"The important thing to know in all of this transformation is that every Soldier in the Virginia National Guard has a home," said Maj. Gen. Claude A. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. "A Soldier might have to train for a different specialty or in some limited cases drive to a different armory, but there is a space for every face in the Virginia Guard. This transformation is a great opportunity for the Virginia Guard, and I am confident we have the leadership in place to take advantage of these new opportunities."

According to Col. Mike Coleman, the Virginia Army Guard's senior operations and training officer, the Virginia Guard developed a state command plan for how to reorganize the units in the state based on guidance and directives from National Guard Bureau and the United States Army. That state plan was then used to develop a restationing plan to determine the most effective way to position units and personnel within the state.

Coleman explained that a number of factors were taken into account when the State plan was developed. The Guard wanted to have units in the right places to continue to recruit and retain quality Soldiers, and wanted to provided a variety of options for female Soldiers since certain units and jobs are not open to them. It was also of critical importance for the Virginia Guard to be able to accomplish the second part of its dual mission to provide military assistance to Virginia's civil authorities in times of need.

	Location
<b>329th Regional Support Group</b>	<b>Va Beach</b>
<b>HHC/329th RSG</b>	<b>Va Beach</b>
<b>HHC/212th Combat Service Support Battalion</b>	<b>Roanoke</b>
<b>229th Chemical Company</b>	<b>Danville</b>
DET 1/229th Chemical Company	<b>Gate City</b>
<b>HHC 530th Transportation Battalion</b>	<b>Richmond</b>
1710th Transportation Company	<b>Emporia</b>
DET 1/1710th Transportation Company	<b>Martinsville</b>
1173rd Transportation Company	<b>Rocky Mount</b>
DET 1/1173rd Transportation Company	<b>Onancock</b>
DET 2/1173rd Transportation Company	<b>Gate City</b>
1032nd Transportation Company	<b>Abingdon</b>
DET 1/1032nd Transportation Company	<b>Blackstone</b>
<b>3647th Maint Co.</b>	<b>Blackstone</b>
<b>229th QM Liason Team</b>	<b>Blackstone</b>
<b>183rd Personnel Services Detachment</b>	<b>Richmond</b>

	Location
<b>91st Troop Command</b>	<b>Richmond</b>
<b>HHD 91st TRP COMMAND</b>	<b>Manassas</b>
<b>Data Processing Unit</b>	<b>Manassas</b>
IO SPT CENTER	<b>Manassas</b>
<b>HHC 276th Engineer Battalion</b>	<b>Richmond</b>
176th Horizontal Construction Company	<b>Powhatan</b>
DET 1/176th Horizontal Construction Company	<b>Petersburg</b>
1031st Engineer Support Company	<b>Cedar Bluff</b>
DET 1/1031st Engineer Support Company	<b>Gate City</b>
189th MRBC	<b>Bowling Green</b>
DET 1/189th MRBC	<b>Big Stone Gap</b>
124th Quarry Platoon	<b>Blackstone</b>
237th Engineer Sapper Company	<b>West Point</b>
<b>329th Military Police Troop Command</b>	<b>Petersburg</b>
229th MP Company	<b>Va Beach</b>
DET 1/229th MP Company	<b>Roanoke</b>
266th MP Company	<b>Manassas</b>
DET 1/266th MP Company	<b>Staunton</b>
DET 2/266th MP Company	<b>Harrisonburg</b>
283rd Law & Order Detachment	<b>Petersburg</b>
<b>29th Army Band</b>	<b>Roanoke</b>

Among the key unit changes are the addition of military police units, the creation of a transportation battalion headquarters to oversee Virginia transportation assets, and a robust logistics organization to provide the necessary support functions for the numerous types of units throughout the state. Also, one of Virginia's infantry battalions will convert to a reconnaissance organization, and there was no significant loss of engineer capabilities.

Engineer and military police personnel can be especially helpful with Virginia's mission of military support to civil authorities. For example, in the wake of Hurricane Isabel, the Virginia Guard deployed personnel into the Tidewater area to clear roads, provide traffic control assistance and increased security to help protect communities and business plagued by power outages.

The transformation will provide additional opportunities for Soldiers in the Virginia Guard in a number of ways. For example, Williams said that there will be Guard jobs in military police and engineer units that align with civilian careers in law enforcement and heavy construction equipment.

Williams acknowledged that the transformation will create a certain degree of turmoil as units move and Soldiers begin the process of training for a new specialty area. According to Col. Kim Dillon, senior military personnel officer for the Virginia National Guard, a special personnel transition department has been established within the military personnel office to address the many issues associated with this transformation.

Coleman said the transformation is going to take some time to accomplish, and it is still too early to have exact start and end dates for when it will take place. "By Sep. 1, 2006, our goal is to have our final unit organizations in place, Soldiers reassigned to their new units, the training identified for those Soldiers and the necessary equipment ordered," Coleman said.

Senior leaders in the Virginia Guard have been working on the plan for months, and it has involved a great deal of negotiations

between Virginia and the senior leadership at National Guard Bureau. Williams said he was very pleased with the end result, especially since Virginia did not see a reduction in their overall personnel end strength. Virginia will also keep all of its armories open, except for one in Pennington Gap. Use of the armory there has dwindled in recent years, and any personnel assigned to that armory will be able to attend drill in nearby Gate City.

Authorized personnel force structure for the Virginia National Guard is a constantly changing figure, Dillon explained. The needs of the Army changes on a frequent basis, and as a result, the necessary number of personnel to meet that force structure changes to meet those needs.

Under the new force structure system taking effect with the transformation, the Virginia Guard is authorized to have 7,586 personnel, and the Guard actually has a goal higher than that.

"We are supposed to exceed our authorized strength in order to maintain our units at the highest state of readiness possible," Dillon explained. "We always have a pool of Soldiers not available for mobilization because they have not completed basic training, their job specialty training or have medical or some other issue."

The changes in Virginia's force structure are part of the entire Army's transformation initiative to convert to a more modular force. The new design moves away from the division-based army to a more mobile and easier-to-deploy brigade-based army to support the Global War on Terrorism.

Under the current division-based structure, a brigade has to depend on the division to provide additional combat and logistical assets to perform its mission. Under the new structure, many of those assets have been moved out of the division and into the new brigade structure to make the brigade more autonomous.

The 29th Infantry Division will become what is called a Unit of Execution or UEx that is capable of providing command and control functions for up to five brigade combat teams in a wartime scenario. Virginia's 1st Brigade will become an Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

The new BCT structure has two infantry battalions along with it's own organic fires battalion, a reconnaissance squadron and a special troops battalion consisting of engineer, military intelligence and signal companies. In addition, the BCT will have a very robust brigade support battalion that includes forward support companies with habitual relationships with the battalions.

Army officials have said that the modular restructuring of the Army will help combatant commanders rapidly identify units for deployment on short notice; allow units to sustain operations with minimal or no augmentation; enhance a unit's ability to deploy; and provide greater troop readiness.

	Location
<b>29th UEx</b>	<b>Fort Belvoir</b>
<b>HQ 29th UEx</b>	
TACT CMD POST	
TAC 1	<b>Sandston</b>
TAC 2	<b>Bowling Green</b>
29th UEx SPT BN	<b>Fort Belvoir</b>
DET 1 UEX SPT BN	<b>Sandston</b>
DET 2 UEX SPT BN	<b>Bowling Green</b>
<b>224th Aviation Battalion</b>	<b>Sandston AASF</b>
S&S CO/224th Aviation Battalion	<b>Sandston AASF</b>
AVIM/224th Aviation Battalion	<b>Sandston AASF</b>

	Location
<b>1st BCT 29th UEX</b>	<b>Staunton</b>
<b>HHC 1st Brigade Combat Team</b>	<b>Lynchburg</b>
<b>HHC 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry</b>	<b>Bedford</b>
A Co/1-116th Infantry (-)	<b>Farmville</b>
DET 1/ A Co/1-116th Infantry	<b>Lexington</b>
B Co/1-116th Infantry (-)	<b>Clifton Forge</b>
DET 1/ B Co/1-116th Infantry	<b>Christiansburg</b>
C Co/1-116th Infantry (-)	<b>Radford</b>
DET 1/C Co/1-116th Infantry	<b>Pulaski</b>
D Co (Weapons)/1-116th Infantry (-)	<b>Martinsville</b>
DET 1/ D Co (Weapons)/1-116th Infantry	<b>Winchester</b>
<b>HHC 3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry</b>	<b>Charlottesville</b>
A Co/3-116th Infantry (-)	<b>Harrisonburg</b>
DET 1/ A Co/3-116th Infantry	<b>Woodstock</b>
B Co/3-116th Infantry (-)	<b>Warrenton</b>
DET 1/B Co/3-116th Infantry	<b>Leesburg</b>
C Co/3-116th Infantry (-)	<b>Manassas</b>
DET 1/ C Co/3-116th Infantry	<b>Fredericksburg</b>
D Co (Weapons)/3-116th Infantry	<b>Portsmouth</b>
<b>HHT 2-183rd Cav (RSTA)</b>	<b>Norfolk</b>
A Troop/2-183rd Cav (RSTA)	<b>Suffolk</b>
B Troop/2-183rd Cav (RSTA)	<b>Va Beach</b>
C Troop/2-183rd Cav (RSTA)	<b>Hampton</b>
<b>HCB 1-111th Field Artillery (FIRES BN)</b>	<b>Richmond</b>
A/1-111th Field Artillery	<b>Norfolk</b>
B/1-111th Field Artillery	<b>Sandston</b>
DET 1, TGT ACQ/1-111th Field Artillery	<b>Hampton</b>
MET/SURVEY/1-111th Field Artillery	<b>Fredericksburg</b>
<b>HHC Brigade Special Troops Battalion</b>	<b>Fredericksburg</b>
A Co (Engineer)/Brigade Troops Battalion	<b>Alexandria</b>
B Co (MI)/Brigade Troops Battalion	<b>Hampton</b>
C Co (Signal)/Brigade Troops Battalion	<b>Danville</b>
<b>HHC 429th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB)</b>	<b>South Boston</b>
A Co (DIST)/429th BSB	<b>Bowling Green</b>
DET 1/ A Co (DIST)/429th BSB	<b>Chatham</b>
DET 2/ A Co (DIST)/429th BSB	<b>Richmond</b>
B Co (MAINT)/429th BSB	<b>Charlottesville</b>
C Co (MED)/429th BSB	<b>Portsmouth</b>
D Co (-)/429th BSB	<b>Franklin</b>
DET 1/D Co/429th BSB	<b>Roanoke</b>
E Co/429th BSB	<b>Fredericksburg</b>
F Co (-)/429th BSB	<b>Winchester</b>
DET 1/F Co/429th BSB	<b>Norfolk</b>
G Co/429th BSB	

Besides the 29th UEx and the 1-29th Brigade Combat Team, Virginia's major commands will be the Joint Force Headquarters-Virginia, the Maneuver Training Center (MTC) at Fort Pickett, the 183rd Regional Training Institute and the new 329th Regional Support Group.

The 91st Troop Command will be continue to headquartered in Richmond and will consist of an engineer battalion, a new military police battalion, data processing unit and band.

The 329th RSG will be headquartered in Virginia Beach and consist of a transportation battalion and combat service support battalion with a chemical company, ordnance company and personnel services detachment.

The force structure for the MTC and 183rd RTI have no immediate significant changes. The 183rd RTI will undergo restructuring in Fiscal Year 2008 to adjust manpower and the program of instruction for the new force structure.



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

Col. Will O'Neil briefs members of the Virginia General Assembly delegation on hand for the final live fire exercise for the 29th Division Artillery.

## 29th Division Artillery conducts final live fire

By Pvt. Terra C. Gatti  
29th Infantry Public Affairs Office

As the cool morning air began to dissipate with the heat of the noon sun, Sgt. Brandon Prichard from the Chatham, Va.-based Battery B, 1st Battalion, 246th Field Artillery said, "The weather is perfect; the artillery gods are smiling upon us."

Virginia Army National Guard soldiers of past and present gathered at Fort Pickett to bid a final farewell to the 29th Infantry's Division Artillery long-revered "Red Legs," affectionately nicknamed "DIVARTY."

The event, held on June 21 and lead by Col. Will O'Neill, marked the deactivation of the Division Artillery. This moment was commemorated with a Final Fire ceremony of all 26 M105 Howitzers. With the guns lined up in a solemn single-line formation, and with one simultaneous 26-gun salvo, their rounds landed into the impact of Fort Pickett, Va. for the last time.

The 29th Division Artillery has units in Sandston, Danville, Martinsville, Chatham and South Boston, Va. as well as Massachusetts and Maryland.

In attendance at the Final Fire ceremony were many retired DIVARTY soldiers,

including Brig. Gen. Terry J. Tyler, who was a second lieutenant when the 29th Infantry Division was deactivated in 1968, and later became commander of DIVARTY when it was reactivated in October 1985, a position he held until 1989. Tyler joined the Army National Guard in 1953, and after 43 years of service, 17 of them in a command position, he retired in 1997.

"I will go with what the military wants us to do," said Tyler. "However it is sad to see something you were apart of [end]... It is always a sad occasion when a unit is deactivated."

The retirement of the Division Artillery is part of the Army's transformation initiative, leading to multiple changes within the active Army and Army reserve components, including the National Guard.

The reach of the 29th DIVARTY unit stretches from Massachusetts to Virginia. Just as DIVARTY maintains geographic diversity, they also attain range among their soldiers. And that diversity of the units is a combat multiplier.

As it relates to the cohesion demonstrated by the unit, "These soldiers are disciplined and better trained than some regular

Army units," said Tyler. Though these artillerymen are sad to see this day come to fruition, they are looking forward to their future as National Guardsmen."

Even though the unit is deactivating, the DIVARTY Soldiers will still have jobs as part of the Army's transformation initiative. The 29th Infantry Division Artillery will be transitioned and colors retired on Oct. 1, 2005.



Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, Virginia Guard PA Office

Virginia Secretary of Public Safety John Marshall participated in the live fire exercise along with current and former members of 29th DIVARTY.

## Air Guard recruiter wins Chief's Challenge

By Capt. Mark Widener  
192nd Fighter Wing PAO

A recruiter from the Virginia Air National Guard stepped up to meet a recruiting challenge from the Chief of the National Guard Bureau and took top honors in the nation. Master Sgt. Angela Hill was recognized for her outstanding performance at the Chief Freedom Challenge Awards Ceremony held on July 4, 2005.

In February 2005, Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum, Chief of the National Guard Bureau, put forth a challenge to all Army and Air National Guard recruiters that was intended to inspire the recruiters to strive even harder to increase their numbers. Those that met the challenge were to be invited to Blum's house to spend the 4th of July and enjoy BBQ and fireworks.

The criteria for Army National Guard recruiters was to enlist 11 applicants during the timeframe from Feb. 1, 2005 through

June 15, 2005, but Air Guard recruiters had a different goal: they needed to enlist 18 people during that same time period.

By July 3, 2005, Hill had answered Blum's challenge. Not only did she enlist 34 people in the specified timeframe, she also surpassed 290 other Army and Air Guard recruiters and was noted as having the highest overall accession of recruits Guard wide. This accomplishment made her the number one recruiter in the nation as pertaining to the recruitment goals set forth for the Army and Air National Guard.

It wasn't until she attended the Chief Freedom Challenge Award Ceremony that she found out just how well she did. Blum invited Hill to sit with him at his table for breakfast at the ceremony that was announced that she had attained the highest number of accessions in the Chief Freedom Challenge across the nation.

Many of the recruiters present at the



Photo courtesy 192nd Fighter Wing

Master Sgt. Angela Hill poses with Lt. Gen. H Steven Blum at the Chief's Freedom Challenge Award ceremony.

occasion asked Hill how she achieved such outstanding results. "By putting in lots of long hours and liking what you do," she said. "When you are in a work environment that is very comfortable it just makes the job a lot easier," was her answer.

## RED HORSE Squadron celebrates anniversary

By Maj. Debbie Magaldi  
Air Guard Public Affairs Officer

The 203d RED HORSE Squadron of the Virginia Air National Guard gathered on June 11, 2005, to celebrate the unit's 20th anniversary. The event was marked by a ceremony in the Virginia Beach-based unit's headquarters building and followed by a Family Day on the beach at the State Military Reservation (SMR). It was attended by current and retired unit members, many of their families and a number of distinguished visitors.

In honor of the historical significance of the day, unit members enjoyed a short slide show highlighting many of the unit's unique military deployments, and emergency response and humanitarian assistance missions from over the years.

Twenty years ago the 203d RED HORSE (then) Flight was established at the SMR, while its sister unit, the 202d RED HORSE Squadron was sited at Camp Blanding, Florida. On a cold January day back in 1985, the flight held its first unit training assembly with 50 members present.

Over the past 20 years, the 203d has deployed for construction, humanitarian, and disaster relief projects to locations throughout the United States and around the world. Destinations in Honduras, Panama, Haiti, Dominican Republic, Israel, Italy, Azores, Spain, Germany, England, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Iraq, United Arab Emirates and Korea are just some of the locations the unit has deployed.



Photo courtesy 203d RED HORSE Squadron

Bubba the REDHORSE mascot was on hand to help celebrate the unit's 20th anniversary.

On Mar. 3, 2001, the unit suffered a tragic loss when a plane crash claimed the lives of 18 203d unit members and the flight crew of three from the Florida Army National Guard. The men were returning home from a two-week training mission in Florida when the aircraft crashed in Unadilla, Georgia. One year later on Mar. 3, 2002, the unit proudly dedicated the memorial built in front of the 203d Headquarters building – a memorial that forever stands in honor of those that paid the ultimate sacrifice.

In 2003, the 203d RED HORSE Flight was activated for the first time and deployed to Southwest Asia for six months in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

During 2004 the 203d RED HORSE Flight was re-designated the 203d RED HORSE Squadron.

# Virginia Guard units conduct annual training activities at Fort Pickett

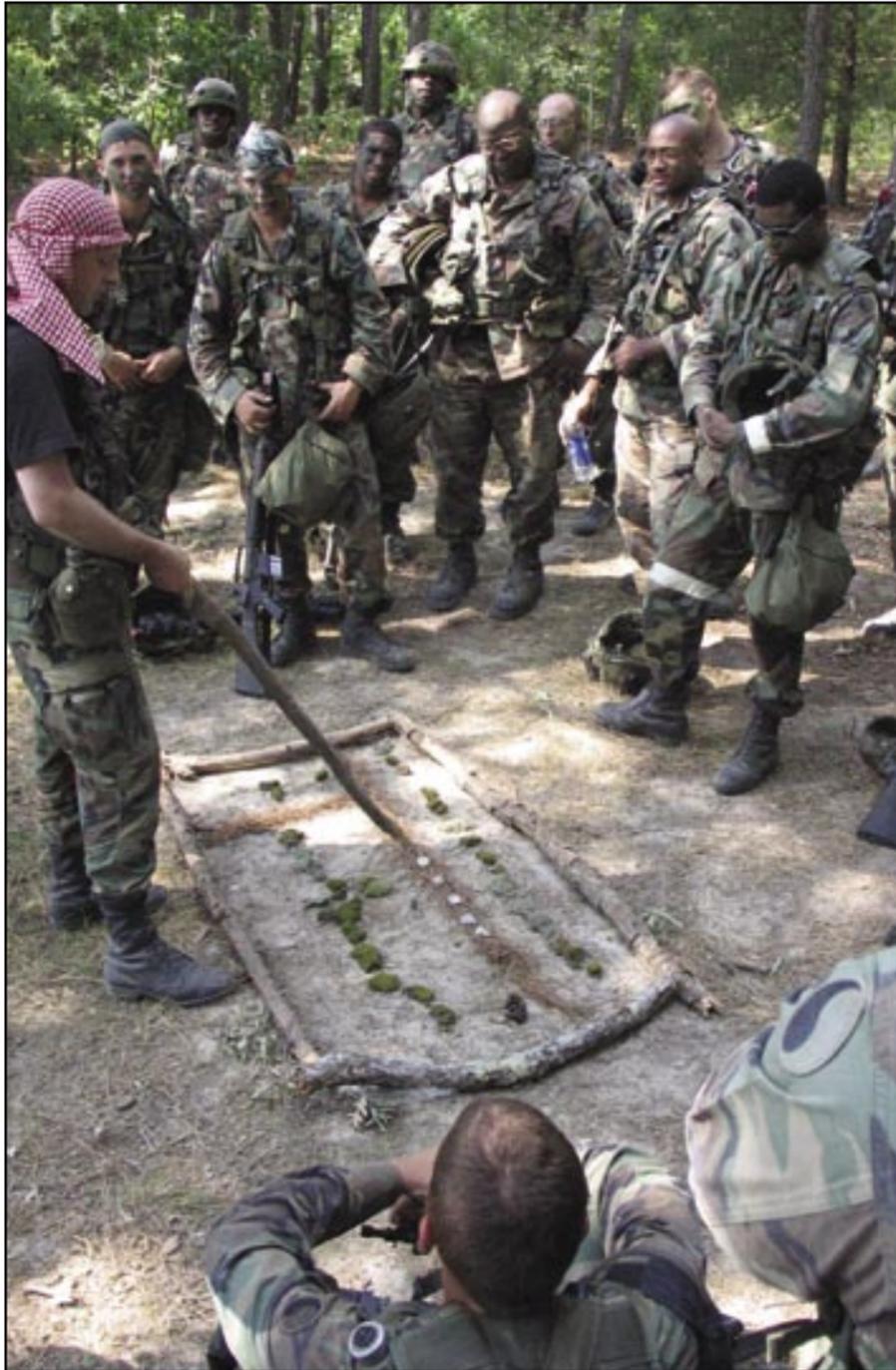


Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office

Dressed as an enemy insurgent, 1st Lt. Ed Bochtler uses a sand table during an After Action Review after a recent convoy training exercise with Soldiers from 3rd Battalion, 111th Air Defense Artillery. The unit was conducting "Main Supply Route" drills while on Annual Training status at Fort Pickett, Va.

For more stories and photos from the training at Fort Pickett, visit [www.viriniaguard.com](http://www.viriniaguard.com).



Photo by Pfc. Occoless Trotter, 29th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

Staff Sgt. Jamey Jones (above photo on the right) carves a piece of turkey as Connelly Judge Master Sgt. Gregory R. Mason (left) and Spc. Karen Watts-Green watch. The 37th Annual Philip A. Connelly State Competition came to Headquarters Company, 29th Infantry Division's Tactical Operations Center on June 19, to judge the mess section's operations and proficiency. The senior leaders from 1st Brigade and 29th Infantry Division (right photo) walked the line to inspect the Soldiers present for the 1st Brigade Change of Command on June 19 at Fort Pickett, Va. Col. Mike Harris took command of 1st Brigade from Robert H. Simpson.



Photo by Master Sgt. Robert Michaud, 29th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office



Photo by Master Sgt. Robert Michaud, 29th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office



Photo by Master Sgt. Robert Michaud, 29th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

Spc. Theresa Jolloff (above photo), a water treatment specialist with the 222nd Support Detachment, fills a water buffalo at the 29th Division's water point. The work of the water specialists of the "Triple Deuce" is to provide potable water for the Soldiers in the field. Medical personnel from B Company, 429th Forward Support Battalion (left photo) evaluate a casualty during a mass casualty exercise. Army doctors and medics help with a range of training injuries, from bug bites to broken bones, but the medical personnel get their most intense training from the exercise. "This exercise shows us how we operate under stress, it taxes us to the limits and actually makes us more comfortable if we ever had a real mass casualty situation," said Sgt. 1st Class Scott Gibson, treatment platoon sergeant, B. Co. (Med) 429th Forward Support Battalion. "It's not just the docs, it's not just the medics, it's everybody. It helps us work as a team."



Photos by Maj. Cotton Puryear, Virginia Guard Public Affairs Office

A squad leader (above photo) from 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry gathers intelligence from a local village leader in presence patrol scenario of the Warrior Lanes training. Prior to the movement to contact lane, a squad leader (right photo) receives his operations order.



## Infantry Soldiers navigate “Warrior Lanes”

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

Months of planning and training paid off for hundreds of Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers when they completed Warrior Lanes Training during their annual training June 13- 25 at Fort Pickett, Va.

The Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment had been honing both their individual and collective skills in anticipation of the grueling exercise.

A series of squad-level tasks for Soldiers on today’s modern battlefield, Warriors Lane Training took place over the course of 72 hours. During that time, squads had 24 hours to complete the three lanes – movement to contact, a traffic control point and a presence patrol.

Each lane was allotted eight hours a day and, in the movement to contact, the Soldiers had to maneuver in the dark for two kilometers, through thick brush and trees, looking for the enemy. At the traffic control point, squads were charged with stopping and inspecting vehicles and reacting to any unplanned scenarios. In the presence patrol, the troops had to move through an urban area, interact with locals, and gauge their intentions.

“Movement to contact is probably the most physically difficult task but the

presence patrol is the most emotionally difficult,” said Capt. Chris Samulski, commander of A Company. “Anything can happen at any moment. It’s like being deployed overseas and not knowing who the enemy is.”

“The presence patrol will be the toughest because the Soldiers will be required to solve problems in unusual ways,” added Lt. Col John Epperly, the battalion commander. “We will throw things at them that they haven’t seen in training.

“The mental intensity will make it tougher and every Soldier will face something new,” he added.

Preparation for Warrior Lanes Training stretches back a year and a half, according to Epperly. “Eighteen months ago we received guidance from the division to prepare for this training,” he said. “We needed to make sure all squads and members can do individual and collective tasks.”

As part of the preparation for the training, his Soldiers went through individual skills training. Here each squad member focused on one skill and became an expert in that field, whether it was communications, demolition or marksmanship.

Most recently, a collective training phase prepared the Soldiers for their time at Fort Pickett. They practiced numerous tasks and were trained and evaluated on

three lanes, each of which had between four to five tasks that the squads were required execute.

But as they trained both collectively and individually, Epperly’s Soldiers received valuable assistance from outside their battalion as well. The 224th Aviation Battalion provided aviation support for the troops despite gearing up for a future deployment, according to the commander.

“They did a wonderful job and our Soldiers began believing in this training once they saw we were getting resources like that,” he said.

Epperly’s intent is to have squads in his battalion that are more deployable and capable. In order to do that, the squads were stabilized from the beginning. In fact, most of the squads have been able to work together for more than a year, improving teamwork and increasing morale, he said.

Epperly doesn’t think it’s a coincidence that morale has been high among his troops and that the retention rate increased by 25% over the past year. He attributes most of it to the steady training on vital skills the Soldiers know they will one day need.

“Last year we told the Soldiers what we were doing and why,” he said. “We explained that this training will help them as Soldiers. They bought into it and it’s been a great year.”

## Gate City units support Books for Africa Program

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

Soldiers from the 1032nd Transportation Company and the 1030th Engineer Battalion rolled out of Fort Pickett on June 21, headed to Northern Virginia on what would be the first leg of a long journey for 96,000 pounds of books. The trip was part of a joint effort under the Books to Africa Program to get valuable educational materials and books in the hands of needy children in the impoverished city of Monrovia, Liberia. Books, audio-visual learning aids and other educational materials were donated by hundreds of organizations.

The idea came when a member church of the Richmond Baptist Association (RBA) sent several of its members to do missions work in the African city. While there, the missionaries were touched by the eagerness and thirst the children had for learning and wanted to help. With the assistance of the RBA and several other organizations, an appeal went out to corporations, organizations and individuals.



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

Stacks of books wait in a Richmond warehouse for transportation.

The result was an outpouring of support which materialized into thousands of books and educational materials. However, this was only the beginning of a huge logistical undertaking. Getting 96,000 pounds of books to Africa is no small task, nor is it cheap. So when the call was made to the Virginia Guard for assistance, Soldiers stationed in Gate City Va., answered the call.

In two separate convoys, the Soldiers

traveled to two Northern Virginia cities, Loudon and Alexandria, to pick up the books. Once loaded, they transported the items to a Richmond, Va. warehouse where they were unloaded and stored for shipment. A long, hard days’ work that didn’t end until well past 9:00 p.m. but the gratification the Soldiers displayed, just knowing that their efforts would have far reaching implications, made it all worth while.

## Operation “Virginians for Virginia” a big success

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

When Soldiers of the 229th Engineer Battalion and the 28th Engineer Brigade took a pass on combat operations and exchanged Kevlar helmets for hard hats, the result was a win-win situation. The two units pulled their assets together in support of Operation Virginians for Virginia and headed to the town of Bowling Green to turn a wooded parcel of land into a baseball field.

Soldiers got real, hands-on training moving earth and dozing down trees, clearing the way for what is to become a training ground for a new generation of future big leaguers. This was no small task, according to civilian project manager Randy Pitts.

“The area was thick with hard woods and stumps and needed heavy grading. Without the help of the Virginia National Guard, the cost would have made it very difficult if not impossible to get this field up and running anytime soon.”

The parcel was recently purchased by the Caroline County Youth Athletic Association (CCYAA), an all-volunteer non-profit organization that owns and operates the fields in Caroline County. The project came about as a result of a CCYAA board members’ association with the Virginia Guard who was also familiar with the Virginians for Virginia program.



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

Engineers from the Virginia Guard worked to turn a cluttered parcel of land into a baseball field as part of a community service project in Bowling Green, Va.

The program got its start in 1991 as a joint partnership between Southwest Virginia Community College and the Virginia Army National Guard to support economic development in the region. The theme Virginians for Virginia was coined by Virginia Guard member, Chief Warrant Officer Raymond Bowles.

Since that time Virginians for Virginia has helped many communities within the Commonwealth enhance their economic base and provide venues of recreation and service for the areas in which they serve.

## “Freedom Salute” honors service

By Sgt. John Slosser  
GuardPost Staff Writer

The Virginia Army National Guard honored the Soldiers, families and communities of 276th Engineer Battalion with a series of “Freedom Salute” ceremonies on Jun. 11 and 12. The Freedom Salute Campaign is one of the largest Army National Guard recognition endeavors in history. It is designed to publicly acknowledge Army National Guard Soldiers as well as the spouses, families and friends on the home front who’ve supported the troops during their recent deployments.

Crowds of Soldiers and supporters gathered at or near the armories of the 276th across the state.

The Soldiers, serving their first drill weekend since their return to the United States after over a year in Iraq, were presented with a myriad of gifts and awards ranging from medals and certificates, to commemorative coins and United States flags cased in wooden frames and adorned with plaques.

“It shows how loyal [the people] are to Soldiers by showing respect to them and what they do,” said Spc. Robert McCormick, a combat engineer from Powhatan. “I think everyone in here deserves this. We are one big family.”

Awards and applause went out to everyone from Purple Heart recipients to the schools, companies and corporations that helped fund and organize support to the deployed troops.

“You can’t really understand the complete support of the family



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, Virginia Guard Public Affairs Office

**Spc. Wayne Boyd, an equipment operator for Company A, 276th Engineer Battalion in Powhatan, reads over his “Defender of Freedom” certificate at the Freedom Salute ceremony on June 11.**

and community to a Guard unit, until that Guard unit deploys,” said Capt. Chris Doss, while at the Richmond ceremony.

“I think today is more of a thanks to families than to [the Soldiers]. We signed up for this, we took an oath, but it’s not always the case with the family that comes along with the Soldier,” said Doss.

“This ceremony is a final recognition that the commonwealth and country can extend to the Soldiers together as one unit because after this many of us could start to spread out or go on our separate ways.”

## “International Media” join Soldiers at AT



Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, Virginia Guard PA Office

**Pfc. Marque Siegelman and Pvt. 2 Terra Gatti simulated civilian media on the battlefield during the 29th Division Artillery’s urban warfare training.**

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Coyne  
GuardPost Staff Writer

In an effort to recreate the unique conditions of the modern battlefield, two Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers assumed the role of international television journalists when fellow division Soldiers underwent military operations on urban terrain (MOUT) training, June 13-16 at Fort Pickett, Va.

During the four days of training, Pfc. Marque Siegelman and Pvt. 2 Terra Gatti, both broadcast journalists with Headquarters Company, 29th Infantry Division, played the role of an embedded reporter and television photojournalist who joined Soldiers from various batteries within the Division Artillery as they entered a hostile town in the fictional country of Marcalastan.

“We tried to add realism to this training,” explained Col. Will O’Neill, commander of the division artillery. “Because it’s not just colonels and generals who interact with the media, it’s the Soldiers on the front lines.”

Gatti played the role of an embedded journalist with the unit, while Siegelman was a news service photojournalist who links up with Gatti at the town as the unit begins movement through the hostile area.

At least three batteries went through the training each day for four days, giving Gatti a chance to switch up her tactics. Not only did unit officials want to see how the Soldiers treated her, they also wanted to see where they put her, what they told her and what they allowed the reporter to do.

“I wanted to make it as real as possible,” Gatti said. “I was given leeway to be obnoxious, to quiz people and test the Soldiers.”



Photo by Sgt. John Slosser, Virginia Guard Public Affairs Office

**Soldiers from the 229th Engineers set charges to blow a storm-damaged bridge during the unit’s annual training.**

## “Bushmasters” blow bridge to bits

By Staff Sgt. A.J. Coyne  
GuardPost Staff Writer

While Fort Pickett enjoyed the removal of an eyesore, Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers experienced a rare training opportunity when they conducted their annual training at the post June 12-25.

The “Bushmasters” of Fredericksburg-based B Company, 229th Engineer Battalion, 29th Infantry Division, used nearly 1,000 pounds of explosives to destroy an old bridge that had been swept downriver by last year’s storms.

“It’s really rare to get this chance to blow up a bridge,” said Capt. Mark Miller, the company commander. “Part of our mission is to make bridges go away but because of the cost, we rarely get this opportunity.”

That rare opportunity came about because of a Soldier’s reenlistment wish. As Miller recounted, a veteran noncommissioned officer in the unit was planning to leave the military when his enlistment was up and his commander was looking for ways to convince him to stay.

“He said one thing he’d never done was he’d never blown up a bridge,” Miller, a Leesburg resident, recalled. “So we made a handshake agreement that, if he stayed in, we would blow up a bridge at annual training this year.”

Miller then had to try and find a bridge they could blow up. Eventually, one of the NCO’s in his unit heard from range control personnel at Fort Pickett that two of their bridges had been damaged by storms. After evaluating the two, the Bushmasters decided the smaller of the two bridges was an ideal candidate for destruction.

The wide, wooden bridge, which rested on the surface of the creek about 125 meters away from where it originally stood, required at least three separate explosions of nearly 300 pounds each to be destroyed to the Soldiers’ satisfaction.

After spending several days training up and preparing for the event, Miller and his Soldiers were ready for the real thing on June 15. Dozens of explosive charges were positioned on the structure for detonation.

“I’ve torn bridges down but this is my first time blowing one up,” said Spc.

Martin Dingus of Falls Church. “We have a chance to take it out and see the aftermath. I’m excited to see what happens to it.”

For Pvt. Greg Hey, the bridge-blowing experience was even more meaningful. Only a week out of advanced individual training, it was the Manassas resident’s first annual training with the unit.

“I’ve done live demolitions before but this is my first time doing something like this,” Hey said. “So I’m getting ready for a really big boom.”

As the unit’s newest Soldier, Hey had the privilege of detonating the second explosive charge alongside the division’s top Soldier, Maj. Gen. Arthur Wyman, the commander of the 29th Inf. Div.

The explosions could be heard all over post but they were just one aspect of the training. Evaluating the bridge, planning a course of action and planting the explosives also proved to be a rare opportunity for the Soldiers.

“Something like this doesn’t happen unless someone asks a question,” Miller said. “I guess we asked the right questions.”

# News Briefs

## Virginia Guardsman Wins Regional Competition

On an unusually cool spring morning, seven Army National Guard Soldiers arose and began their quest for the title of Soldier of the Year and Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, Region I. The event took place on Apr. 16 and was hosted by Command Sgt. Major Robert Huffman, State Sgt. Major for Virginia, at Fort Pickett. When it was over, Virginia Guardsman Spc. Matthew Woyanski emerged as Soldier of the Year for Region I.

Woyanski, who is the reigning State Soldier of the Year, competed against top soldiers from Maryland, North Carolina and South Carolina. Each Soldier competed in several categories including physical fitness, basic rifle marksmanship, land navigation and CTT. Sergeants major from the competing states were on hand to lend support and encouragement to all the participants.

The contest was highly competitive and challenged each Soldier to go the extra mile. Huffman was extremely pleased with the caliber of Soldier that was represented. "This was one of the most competitive groups we've seen in a while," he said. "They really represented their states well and although there is only one winner, (at each level) there certainly weren't any losers"

The two-day event culminated with a board to test the Soldier's knowledge on military history, current events, leadership and weapon systems.

Woyanski is a member of Company B, 2nd Battalion, 116th Infantry in Lexington Va.

## "Helmets to Hardhats" helps find employment opportunities

"Helmets to Hardhats" eases the difficult passage into civilian life for military families, providing the best career opportunities, pay, and benefits to those who have earned the nation's support through their years of service and sacrifice.

The program collects information about

**Soldiers get taste of Air Assault "Zero Day"**



Photo by Maj. Cotton Puryear, Virginia Guard Public Affairs Office

**Soldiers headed for Air Assault School got the chance to experience the rigors of "Zero Day" first hand, with some help from 1st Battalion, 183rd Regional Training Institute. For more photos and information about the training, visit [www.virginiaguard.com](http://www.virginiaguard.com).**

the best career opportunities in building and construction trades and works to provide former military personnel with that information. Candidates can access information about careers and apprenticeships via the Internet from anywhere in the world. To apply for work or membership, each candidate must complete a comprehensive profile that helps "Helmets to Hardhats" refer candidates in the right direction. The program then connects the candidate with the right opportunity in the right location, serving as an advocate wherever necessary.

"Helmets to Hardhats" is co-sponsored by all fifteen Building and Construction Trades organizations, as well as their employer associations, which together represent about 82,000 contractors. Labor leaders have embraced the program, eager to help U.S. soldiers, sailors, Marines and airmen transfer their experience and can-do attitudes into secure jobs within the construction industry.

The program is a building trade's initiative administered by the Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment, and Veterans Employment. The U.S. Army administers the funding, which was made available in January 2003 to get the program off the ground.

The Center is a not-for-profit trust directed by a joint labor-management construction industry committee. The co-chairs are BCTD President, Edward C. Sullivan, and Iz Cakrane, Chairman of the North American Contractors Association.

The Helmets to Hard Hats program is currently assisting employers looking for candidates willing to work at construction sites in the Roanoke / Salem and Richmond area. For more information about the program please visit their web site at [www.helmetstohardhats.org](http://www.helmetstohardhats.org) <http://www.helmetstohardhats.org/> OR soldiers may contact Sue Robbins the Rep for Virginia at 1-866-741-6210 X 1022 for assistance with enrollment into this program.

# Virginia Guard Soldier becomes a U.S. citizen

By Spc. Nicki Fellenzer  
29th Infantry Public Affairs Office

"I am so happy! I am so proud!" whispered Tiffany Hafeez excitedly as she watched her husband raise his hand and repeat the Oath of Citizenship. In the bright sunshine and sizzling heat, Sgt. Ata UI Hafeez of B Company, 229th Engineer Battalion, from Fredericksburg became a citizen of the United States on Flag Day, June 14 at Virginia's Mount Vernon.

Under the proud gaze of families and friends, 100 new American citizens, representing 36 different nations from around the world, recited the Pledge of Allegiance at the historic estate of America's first president, George Washington. After a musical tribute by the National Men's Chorus and a recorded greeting by President George W. Bush welcoming them into the American family, the newly sworn-in citizens received their Certificates of Naturalization.

For Hafeez, the Naturalization Ceremony was merely a formality. As a Non-Commissioned Officer in the Virginia Army National Guard, Hafeez already felt himself a citizen, serving his nation in uniform. The kinship with his new nation took hold when Hafeez was in Basic Training at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo.

Upon seeing photographs of service members lost in the USS Cole bombing, and hearing the National Anthem played, "It hit me," Hafeez said. "Here's this country where people actually care if you lost one, and they stop for a minute."



Photo by Spc. Nicki Fellenzer, 29th Infantry Division Public Affairs Office

**Sgt. Ata UI Hafeez raises his hand as he takes his oath of citizenship in a ceremony held at Mount Vernon.**

"The country that I had just come from had no humanity," he continued. "I had seen dead bodies on the road with bullets in their chest and it was OK. No one would even come by to pick up the bodies," he recalled. But all of a sudden Hafeez was impacted emotionally by the deaths of two service members he didn't even know. That's when he felt like he was in a brotherhood. "Being in uniform made me feel like I'm a part of something. No one can kick me out of this. I stand for something."

Hafeez arrived in America on July 26, 1996 at the age of 15. He spoke no English

upon his arrival, but several years later, he found himself in uniform thanks to advice he received from his father, "The only way you can ever show your allegiance to a country is by joining the Armed Forces."

Hafeez's father was a government official in Pakistan, who was about to be ejected from his job because of his faith. Hafeez and his family were declared non-Muslims by Pakistani law for practicing their version of Islam, and any declaration stating otherwise was punishable by 10 lashes and life imprisonment. Fearing retribution, the family fled to the United States.

## Virginia National Guard Federal Deployments

# *	Unit	Where Deployed	Home Town
182	Battery B, 2nd Battalion, 111th Field Artillery	Iraq	Farmville
17	129th Target Acquisition Detachment	Iraq	Sandston
165	1173rd Transportation Company	Iraq	Martinsville and Rocky Mount
160	192nd Fighter Wing, 200th Weather Flight and 203rd REDHORSE	Various locations	Sandston and Virginia Beach
60	Various units	Fort Pickett	
55	Various units	Army Guard Readiness Center	
41	183rd Personnel Service Det.	Kuwait and Iraq	Richmond
12	Joint Forces Headquarters (ANA-II)	Afghanistan	Blackstone

\* All listings for numbers of Soldiers are approximate.