

**Adjutant General also conducts information brief**

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## Virginia Guard displays capabilities for General Assembly

Soldiers and Airmen of the Virginia Guard along with members of the Virginia Defense Force were on hand with equipment displays at the Virginia General Assembly Jan. 19 to give members of the Virginia Senate and House of Delegates a first-hand look at some of the capabilities the Guard can provide. Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, also conducted an information briefing for legislators.

"This was a great opportunity for us to meet face to face with legislators," Long said. "We were able to talk with many of them to ensure they understood our issues and concerns."

Soldiers from the Counterdrug Task Force and the 34th Civil Support Team, Airmen from the 200th Weather Flight and 192d Fighter Wing as well as Virginia Guard recruiters set up displays in the courtyard outside the General Assembly Building. Members of the Virginia Defense Force were also on hand with one of their four mobile command post communication trailers.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan11/GAdisplay.html>



Soldiers and Airmen of the Virginia National Guard alongside members of the Virginia Defense Force set up displays outside the Virginia General Assembly Jan. 19.

### Virginia National Guard News Headlines

#### 29th Infantry Division mentors are making a difference in Afghanistan

Several officers of the 29th Infantry Division are working as mentors and advisors within the Afghan Ministry of Defense at the National Military Command Center.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan11/29thmentors.html>

#### Governor signs Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve

Roger Trout of the Virginia Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, an agency of the Department of Defense, announced that Governor Bob McDonnell signed a Statement of Support for the National Guard and Reserve Jan. 18 in Richmond.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan11/ESGRsigning.html>

#### Visual Information section provides audiovisual capabilities

The Virginia National Guard's Visual Information section provides a number of services and equipment to requesting units across the state and those visiting Fort Pickett.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan11/photolab.html>

#### Virginia Guard chaplains looking for questions for "Dearchappy"

The Virginia National Guard Chaplain Corps is initiating "Dearchappy," an opportunity for Soldiers, Airmen and family members to submit questions or concerns to Virginia Guard chaplains. Interested parties can email questions, statements, concerns or issues to [Dearchappy@hotmail.com](mailto:Dearchappy@hotmail.com).

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan11/dearchappy.html>

### Mark Your Calendars!

#### Feb. 11-13, 2011: Marriage Retreat

Army Strong Bonds Marriage Enrichment Training weekend is scheduled Feb. 11-13 at the Crown Plaza in Virginia Beach. For more information, contact Sgt. Christiansen at 434-298-6463.

#### Feb. 11: Registration Deadline for Express Yourself Teen Camp

Registration for Virginia Operation Military Kids "Express Yourself Camp" from March 4-6 in Wakefield. The camp is for military youth ages 9 to 14 of all branches and the cost is \$10.

Priority will be given to military youth who have at least one parent who is currently deployed, preparing to deploy or recently returned from deployment.

For more information, contact Louetta Jones via email at [lojones@vt.edu](mailto:lojones@vt.edu) or call 804-733-1880.

## Va. battalion helps establish Afghan Transportation Network

The Virginia Guard's Virginia Beach-based 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion has been instrumental in reaching an important milestone for sustainment operations in Afghanistan with the successful establishment of the Afghan Transportation Network. The first five trucks of the ATN departed Shindand Air Base Jan. 15 loaded with cargo for support of units of the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division located in Herat, Afghanistan.

"ATN is an initiative to bring economic development back into the hands of the local population," said Lt. Col. Michelle Rose, commander of the 529th. "Out of all the other sustainment battalions in Afghanistan, the 529th was chosen to execute this contract in support of the counter insurgency fight because our reputation of bringing sustainment operations into the austere environment of western Afghanistan made us a good candidate to oversee this important initiative. I am proud of my support operations staff who embraced this concept and flawlessly executed getting these first trucks on the road on time and without incident."

Maj. Mike Waterman, the 529th's support operations officer for the 529th, and Capt. William Johnson, the transportation planning officer, have been extensively involved with the establishment of the ATN, said Maj. Matthew Lutz, the battalion executive officer.

"The support operations section performs the contract officer representative duties that oversee the civilian commercial trucking company that will manage the contract for the ATN," Waterman said. "The ATN was started to facilitate the development of locally-owned trucking industries, and the goals are to promote cohesion and trust among tribes, provide a method for the regional command to strengthen key regional tribal leaders and to decrease or eliminate the reliance on private security companies."

Prior to the establishment of the ATN, U. S. Soldiers have been moving cargo in convoys like the one that departed Shindand Jan. 15. For every two containers of cargo carried on ATN trucks, two less Soldiers are required to operate trucks in a convoy, Waterman said. In some cases entire convoys will be removed from the road, taking as many as twenty Soldiers out of harm's way for a cargo movement.

"We're glad to see local Afghans establishing the framework for their own transportation operations," said 1st Lt. Victoria Wynn, executive officer of the 104th Transportation Company. The company will likely see a reduction in operations as a result of the ATN, Wynn said.

A key component to economic growth in Afghanistan is a dependable transportation network, Waterman said. In time, the guarantee of reliable trucks and drivers will create a market for movement of civilian cargo, impacting the local and national economy far beyond the movement of military cargo.

Shindand and Regional Command-West serve as the "proof of principle" or test-bed for the ATN, a concept that will be spread to all other Regional Commands if the system proves successful. "The true measure of success will be when these drivers begin showing up with new trucks and trailers, and that will tell me that



The first of six containers gets loaded onto one of five Afghan Transportation Network trucks Jan. 15 at Shindand Air Base in Afghanistan.

the money is ending up in the right hands," said Department of Defense Civilian Phil Parham.

The Afghan-owned and operated trucks had been requested by contacting the Shindand village elder, who because of his influence and authority could guarantee the successful delivery of the cargo to its destination.

An added benefit of the ATN is that instead of a large contractor taking the majority of the income from cargo movements, the truckers themselves, all local residents, receive a larger portion of the profit, Waterman said. As well, the local village elder receives a percentage of the profit; and the remainder goes into a fund that is set aside for local humanitarian projects to be allocated based on the collective decisions made by a meeting of several elders.

Read more: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan11/529thATN.html>

### MORE ON THE WEB

**Virginia General Assembly web site**

<http://legis.state.va.us/>

**Army Strong Bonds Marriage Enrichment Training**

[http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note\\_id=479263259175](http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=479263259175)

**Express Yourself Camp**

<http://www.facebook.com/event.php?eid=150374081683738>

**G1 Gateway provides Citizen Soldiers with information**

<http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan11/G1gateway.html>

**Youth programs looking for volunteers, hosting teen training**

<http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/jan11/youthprogramsbrief.html>

**January 16, 1991-Operation Desert Storm opens with ten Virginia Guard units on active duty**

[http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note\\_id=494994269175](http://www.facebook.com/note.php?note_id=494994269175)

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