

Exercise conducted Dec. 2-14 near Tokyo

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29th Infantry Division Soldiers train with Japanese military forces



Command Sgt. Maj. Fred Bruner of Richmond, Va., coordinates a mission with his counterparts in the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force.

A task force of the 29th Infantry Division, composed of Virginia and Maryland National Guardsmen, conducted two weeks of training near Tokyo with the Japanese Ground Self Defense Force Dec. 2-14.

The training was part of Yama Sakura 55, an annual bilateral exercise between U.S. and Japanese forces.

The Guardsmen, led by Brig. Gen. Peter C. Hinz of Maryland, are responsible for the command and control of a division of simulated soldiers in a computer-generated Command Post Exercise, or CPX, that emulates an attack on Japan by a fictitious military threat. The Guardsmen must replicate the full range of staff work and coordination necessary to move the simulated units.

The goal, explains Hinz, “is to improve relations and improve our ability to work together as military units.” Reaching that goal requires building relationships on a personal, as well as an operational level, with their Japanese counterparts..

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/dec2008/29thIDJapan.html>

Virginia National Guard News Headlines

29th Army Band salutes the season with holiday concerts

The Virginia Guard’s 29th Army Band treated Guardsmen, their families and members of the local community to the sounds of the season with three free holiday concerts Dec. 5-7 in Weber City, Centreville and Virginia Beach.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/dec2008/HolidayConcerts.html>

Loudoun County shows appreciation for Virginia National Guard

The Loudoun County Board of Supervisors presented a resolution of appreciation for the “Welcome Home National Guard” campaign spearheaded by the Loudoun County Chamber of Commerce at its public input session Monday, Dec. 1.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/dec2008/LoudonCounty.html>

Cavalry troops gather for Yellow Ribbon Seminar

Virginia Guard Soldiers from the Virginia Beach-based 2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry Regiment gathered at the Hampton Convention Center Dec. 6 to conduct a Yellow Ribbon Reintegration Seminar.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/dec2008/CavYellowRibbon.html>

Guardsmen, Reservists train to lead at ANCOC

Infantry staff sergeants and sergeants first class from across the National Guard and Reserves executed a raid on a notional missile-site at Fort Pickett Maneuver Training Center Nov. 20 as part of their final field training exercise of the Advanced Non-Commissioned Officer Course taught by the instructors of the 183rd Regional Training Institute.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/dec2008/ANCOC.html>

Mark Your Calendars!

January 2009: Marriage Retreat

The Virginia National Guard Family Programs Office will conduct a Marriage Retreat in January 2009 with the exact time and date to be determined. Contact Kay Baber for more information at 434-298-6129.

Jan 20: Presidential Inauguration

President-elect Barack Obama will be sworn in as the 44th President of the United States on the West Front of the United States Capitol, followed by a luncheon in the Capitol’s Statuary Hall, the 56th Inaugural Parade and official Inaugural Balls.

Jan 22: Ground Breaking

The 183rd Regional Training Institute will break ground on their new headquarters building and training facility at 1 p.m. at the corner of East Parade and Hospital Road on Fort Pickett.

Virginia National Guard 2008 Year in Review

Friends and family gathered Feb. 10 in Lynchburg for a Freedom Salute to honor the 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment for their service in Kosovo from July 2006 to November 2007.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/feb2008/tfrdfreedomssalute.html>

More than 120 Virginia National Guard Soldiers went on state active duty Feb. 11 to join in the Commonwealth's battle against wild fires raging throughout the state.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/feb2008/fires.html>

Nearly 100 Army National Guard Soldiers from as far away as California gathered March 12 in Springfield, Va. for the first 29th Infantry Division Mission Essential Task List Conference.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/march2008/29thMETL.html>

Medical care provided by a Virginia Army National Guard Soldier in Iraq was a major factor in preventing an infection that could have cost a young girl her arm.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/march2008/brillhart.html>

Governor Timothy M. Kaine ceremonially signed several General Assembly bills that will have a direct and indirect impact on Virginia Guard Soldiers, Airmen and their families April 4.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/april2008/billsignings.html>

The Virginia Guard ended the month of April with more than 8,000 members for the first time since 1994.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/may2008/endstrength.html>

Pilots from the Virginia Guard's 192nd Fighter Wing took to the sky in state-of-the-art F-22 Raptors for the first time during a drill weekend, May 17.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/may2008/raptordrill.html>

Soldiers from the 1030th Transportation Battalion worked in cooperation with 329th Regional Support Group to conduct the Virginia Guard's first-ever Reception, Staging, Onward movement and Integration exercise May 4 - 6 at Fort Pickett.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/may2008/JRSOI.html>



More than 1,500 Virginia Guard Soldiers returned home from duty in Iraq and Kuwait in a 20-day period starting April 24.

A special response force of the Virginia National Guard was validated to provide support to first responders and civil authorities if Virginia was attacked with a high-explosive, chemical, radiological or nuclear weapon of mass destruction during an external evaluation at Fort Pickett June 26.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/june2008/cerfeval.html>

A joint exercise conducted Aug. 3 served as the first field test of the Joint Incident Site Communications Capability that provides communication resources for different organizations with different types of radios to be able to talk to each other.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/aug2008/JISCC.html>

The Virginia National Guard's Officer Candidate School graduated its 50th class Aug. 23 at Fort Pickett.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/aug2008/OCClass.html>

The Virginia Department of Military Affairs carefully managed the response to Hurricane Gustav in early September to ensure the necessary resources would be available in case Tropical Storm Hanna created situations where DMA support would be needed.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/sept2008/tslessons.html>

A company of Virginia Guard Soldiers participated in an Army pilot program known as Warrior Adventure Quest Sept. 13.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/sept2008/WarriorQuest.html>

The Virginia Defense Force conducted a field training exercise at Fort Pickett Oct. 4 and 5 that had the largest participation ever of any training exercise at the division level.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct2008/VDFFTX.html>

The Virginia National Guard's Winchester-based 3rd Battalion, 116th Brigade Combat Team received the Walter T. Kerwin, Jr. Readiness Award for Army's Most Outstanding National Guard Unit Oct. 7 in Washington, D.C.

Link: <http://vko.va.ngb.army.mil/VirginiaGuard/news/oct2008/kerwinaward.html>

Units Returned from Active Duty in 2008:

116th Brigade Combat Team Headquarters
3rd Battalion, 116th Infantry
2nd Squadron, 183rd Cavalry
237th Engineer Company
E Company, 429th Brigade Support Battalion
A Company, 116th Brigade Special Troops Battalion

Units on Active Duty at the end of 2008:

1710th Transportation Company
180th Engineer Company
266th Military Police Company
276th Engineer Battalion
Computer Emergency Response Team
Brigade & Battalion Afghan Embedded Training Teams
192nd Security Forces Squadron