

# CoDel letter supports funding for new AASF

The Virginia Congressional Delegation sent a letter to the U.S. Army National Guard Jan. 24, 2020, urging funds needed for a new Virginia National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility in Richmond be prioritized as part of the Future Years Defense Program. The current lease with the Richmond Airport expires in 2032, and the future of VNG Army aviation capability could be at risk without funding for the new \$89 million facility.

“We are incredibly grateful to the Virginia Congressional Delegation for their letter of support to prioritize funding for a new Army Aviation Support Facility,” said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. “While our current lease ending in 2032 might seem very far off, it is just a heartbeat in the military construction process. If we don’t secure the funding for a new facility and have it constructed before the lease ends, we could lose some or all of our aviation units because they don’t have the resources needed to operate. This is the top strategic priority for the VNG, and we hope the support of our Congressional Delegation will move the process forward and help us secure the funding we need.”

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/01/27/14530/>



A Virginia Army National Guard Black Hawk helicopter prepares to take off for a training flight Jan. 27, 2020, at the Virginia National Guard Aviation Support Facility in Sandston, Virginia.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### Ceremony officially welcomes new 91st Cyber Brigade commander

Col. Teri D. Williams took command of the Bowling Green-based 91st Cyber Brigade from Brig. Gen. Adam C. Volant during a change of command ceremony Jan. 12, 2020, at Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/01/17/14521/>

### VDF building partnerships, capabilities with amateur radio community

Members of the Virginia Defense Force took part in the “Grid Failure” statewide amateur radio emergency communications exercise Jan. 18, 2020, to continue building partnerships and capabilities with the amateur radio community.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/01/22/14527/>

### Canadian forces conduct Exercise Fighting Warrior at Fort Pickett

Canadian soldiers assigned to the Montreal-based 34th and Quebec City-based 35th Canadian Brigade Groups conducted a week-long artillery training exercise Jan. 4 – 10, 2020, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/01/15/14492/>

### Red Dragons compete in Scout Platoon Tryouts

Six Virginia National Guard Soldiers assigned to the Lynchburg-based 1st Battalion, 116th Infantry Regiment, 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team were selected for the battalion’s scout platoon after conducting training on individual skills and team building exercises January 11, 2020, at Fort Pickett, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/01/16/14517/>

## Join the Virginia Army National Guard, Virginia Air National Guard or the Virginia Defense Force

For information about joining the Virginia Army National Guard, the Virginia Air National Guard or Virginia Defense Force, visit the appropriate link below:

### Va. Army National Guard

<http://nationalguard.com/va>

### Va. Air National Guard

<https://www.192fw.ang.af.mil/join>

### Va. Defense Force

<http://vdf.virginia.gov/joinvdf/>

## Join the Virginia Army National Guard Alumni Network

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/vngan/>

## AG shares legislative priorities with JLC, GA Military Caucus

Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, updated members of the Virginia General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus and the Joint Leadership Council of Veterans Service Organizations on the Virginia National Guard and discussed the VNG's legislative initiatives for the 2020 session of the Virginia General Assembly Jan. 15, 2020, in Richmond, Virginia.

"Providing an update to the Military and Veterans Caucus and the JLC is important because they are key advocates for legislative initiatives that impact our personnel," Williams said. "The more they understand our mission, accomplishments and challenges, the better they are able to represent our interests."

The Military and Veterans Caucus is made up of Virginia senators and delegates with a keen interest in legislation that supports currently serving military personnel and veterans in Virginia. The JLC provides a vehicle for veterans service organizations like the American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars to collaborate with the Department of Veterans Services on meeting the needs of Virginia's veterans.

Williams explained there are two main legislative actions before the General Assembly that impact the VNG: increasing state tuition assistance by \$500,000 annually and revamping the pay table used for Soldiers, Airmen and Virginia Defense Force members during emergency response operations on state active duty. The tuition assistance increase and the pay table revamp language were included in Governor Ralph Northam's budget proposal. Legislation supporting the Governor's budget language was introduced both in the House of Delegates and the Virginia Senate as a JLC priority.

"Our number one priority is meeting and exceeding our end strength goals, and tuition incentives are one of our strongest recruiting and retention tools," Williams said. "Not only does tuition assistance funding come back to the commonwealth through funds spent at Virginia's colleges, universities and continuing education courses, but it also increases the skills our Soldiers and Airmen bring to their military jobs."

The proposed legislation states members of the VNG and VDF receive emergency response pay equal to their rank and years of service, as determined by the Department of Military Affairs. The AG may increase state active duty pay on an annual basis to match any increases in basic pay that are approved at the federal level.

"When our Soldiers, Airmen and VDF members respond on short notice for state active duty in potential dangerous situations, the emergency response pay they receive should be appropriate to their rank and experience," Williams said.

Another important bill introduced this session would increase the age for citizens to join the VDF on a case-by-case basis. The increase from age 65 to 75 is targeted at bringing in experienced professionals to serve as chaplains, lawyers, nurses and doctors, and provide the opportunity for individuals with significant skill and expertise to augment the VDF's capabilities.

The VDF is authorized by the Code of the Virginia as the



**Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia, provides an update on the Virginia National Guard to members of the Virginia General Assembly Military and Veterans Caucus Jan. 15, 2020, in Richmond, Virginia.**

all-volunteer reserve of the Virginia National Guard and serves as a force multiplier integrated into all Guard domestic operations. Members of the VDF volunteer their time for training and community support and are only paid when called to duty by an authorization from the Governor of Virginia.

There is also legislation that formally completes moving the Virginia Department of Military Affairs from the Secretary of Public Safety and Homeland Security to the Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs. The move was initiated by a Governor's executive order last year.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/01/18/14524/>

### MORE ON THE WEB

**Photos: Red Dragons conduct team leader validations**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157712654181242>

**Photos: 429th BSB sets up BSA, conducts LOGEX**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157712656397553>

**Photos: Soldiers participate in ACFT grader certification**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157712667782136>

**Photos: 2-183rd CAV Soldiers train on Javelin and ITAS**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157712669952431>

**Va. National Guard to host Military Ball in February 2020**

<https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2019/11/21/14352/>

 [@VaNationalGuard](https://www.facebook.com/VaNationalGuard)

 [@VaNationalGuard](https://twitter.com/VaNationalGuard)

 [@VaNationalGuard](https://www.instagram.com/VaNationalGuard)

