

# Va. Air National Guard recognizes top Airmen

The Virginia Air National Guard recognized Airmen who performed above and beyond their duties during the year 2019 at the annual awards ceremony Feb. 8, 2020, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia. Virginia National Guard Air Component Commander Brig. Gen. Toni M. Lord, Virginia Air National Guard State Command Chief Master Sgt. Kelly B. Reich, 192nd Wing Commander Col. Mark D. Piper, and 192nd Wing Command Chief Master Sgt. Christopher L. Amburn presented state and national level awards to deserving Airmen. These Airmen best represented not only the wing, but the Commonwealth of Virginia as well. Airmen awarded at the state level will also compete at the national level.

“Today is a special day to recognize a few of our exceptional Airmen,” said Lord. “These members showed up to work with a sense of purpose, always challenging themselves to be better than the previous day, setting higher expectations for the next day. They continuously competed against themselves to grow, advance and be successful, not just for themselves, but for their families, their unit and the Va. Air National Guard’s federal and state missions.”

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/02/11/14560/>



Virginia Air National Guard senior leaders present recently promoted Staff Sgt. Thomas Massa, 192nd Medical Group, with the 2019 VaANG Outstanding Airman of the Year award Feb. 8, 2020, at Joint Base Langley-Eustis, Virginia.

## Virginia National Guard News Headlines

### COMMEX help 116th IBCT sharpen communications proficiency

Signal Corps Soldiers assigned to the Staunton-based 116th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conducted a massive communications exercise to test all of their systems Feb. 7-9, 2020, at Fort Pickett, Virginia. The exercise brought together Soldiers from across the brigade to test their voice and data transfer systems.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/02/12/14573/>

### VDF Cyber Detachment swears in new warrant officers

Five members of the all-volunteer Virginia Defense Force’s new Cyber Detachment were sworn in as cyber warrant officers Feb. 1, 2020, in Richmond, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/02/02/14585/>

### VNG more efficient with Continuous Process Improvement

In an effort to make administrative systems more efficient and streamlined, the Virginia National Guard is taking a page out of the corporate world and applying it to their unique military systems and processes.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/02/11/14570/>

### Mission: Healthy Relationships workshop scheduled for April 3-5, 2020

The Virginia Department of Veterans Services Virginia Veteran and Family Support office is hosting a Mission: Healthy Relationships workshop April 3-5, 2020, at the Hotel Roanoke Conference Center in Roanoke, Virginia.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/02/12/14588/>

## 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/>

## VNG Soldiers support flood response in Tazewell County

Tazewell County officials sent Virginia National Guard Soldiers out for health and welfare checks on citizens, and Soldiers delivered water and locally-donated food to those impacted by heavy rains and flooding in the area Feb. 7, 2020. The Virginia Department of Emergency Management directed the VNG to send Soldiers with light/medium tactical trucks for high water transportation to assist local authorities, and Soldiers were staged and ready for duty with less than 12 hours notice.

"I am incredibly proud of how quickly and safely our Soldiers responded to the call of duty on such short notice and are ready to assist if needed," said Maj. Gen. Timothy P. Williams, the Adjutant General of Virginia. "Whether we are mobilizing a small group of Soldiers like this or staging 1,500 personnel across the commonwealth like we did for Hurricane Florence, the Virginia National Guard has shown that it can rapidly respond with the capabilities our state agency partners request. It is an honor for us to be part of the multi-agency state response ready to keep our fellow Virginians safe."

Williams also stressed the importance of support from employers and families, especially during short notice mobilizations.

"These Soldiers have full-time jobs and families, and those employers and loved ones drive on when Soldiers go on duty," Williams said. "We couldn't effectively conduct our mission without their support, and I can't thank them enough for the important role they play."

Governor Ralph Northam declared a state of emergency Feb. 6, 2020, in response to heavy rains and extreme flooding in multiple areas in Virginia. Localities in Southwest Virginia were particularly hard hit by flooding.

A state of emergency allows the commonwealth to mobilize resources and position people and equipment to assist in storm response and recovery efforts, and the VNG is assisting as part of the state's emergency response team.

"This weather is potentially dangerous, and rivers and streams can reach flood stage hours after the rain has passed," said Northam in a news release. "I urge all Virginians to monitor forecasts, and be prepared to obey local evacuation orders if needed. We are grateful to first responders who are working to rescue people from flooded homes and keep citizens safe."

According to the Governor's news release, the flooding has affected homes and required rescue of citizens, particularly in Southwest Virginia. According to reports from emergency officials, more than 500 residents in and around the town of Richlands, in Tazewell County, have been displaced by flooding and needed rescue from their homes. A number of roads in Southwest Virginia are closed or washed out.

During domestic operations, the VNG receives missions through the Virginia Department of Emergency Management and responds as part of a multi-agency team with the Virginia State Police, the Virginia Department of Transportation and other state and local emergency agencies to provide support capabilities to communities in need. The VNG is not able to respond to direct



**A Virginia National Guard Soldier assigned to the 1033rd Engineer Company, 276th Engineer Battalion, 329th Regional Support Group wades through high water Feb. 7, 2020, while conducting health and welfare checks near Richlands, Virginia.**

support requests from the public, so people in need should call 911 and not the VNG directly.

Since 2001, the VNG has mobilized more than 13,600 Soldiers, Airmen and members of the Virginia Defense Force on state active duty to respond to hurricanes, winter storms, flooding and other severe weather events across the commonwealth as well as in neighboring states, Louisiana and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The VNG also mobilized personnel for security operations in Charlottesville in August 2017 and 2018.

Read more: <https://vanguard.dodlive.mil/2020/02/07/14555/>

### MORE ON THE WEB

**Leseman takes command of Normandy Battalion**

<https://go.usa.gov/xd58N>

**192nd Operations Support Squadron welcomes new CO**

<https://go.usa.gov/xd58Q>

**Photos: HART trains on rescue hoist operations**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157713003555203>

**Photos: Commonwealth ChalleNGe hosts family day**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157713002280388>

**Photos: WOCS Candidates present class sign, song**

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/albums/72157712901258221/>

