



# 104th Troop Command

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## 104th Troop Command bids farewell to Lobbenmeier

The 104th Troop Command bid farewell to one commander and welcomed another during this weekend's Inactive Duty Training period at the Lieutenant Colonel Lionel A. Jackson Readiness Center.

Outgoing Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Deborah Lobbenmeier relinquished command responsibility to Lt. Col. Elroy Stout, former commander of the Recruiting and Retention Battalion.

During the ceremony, Lobbenmeier thanked her family, which included her sister and fiancé Maj. Carlos Santiago (Ret.), for their unwavering support.

"Many times when I have had to work late, you cared for my children; you love them unconditionally like you would your own," she said as she thanked her sister.

In addition to thanking her fellow officers, Lobbenmeier gave heartfelt thanks to the non-commissioned officers who supported her during her tenure. "Sgt. 1st Class [Benedicta] Donaie kept me on the straight and narrow many times in regards to logistics."

"Staff Sgt. [Shereen] Grouby ran the 51st PAD when the unit got back from its deployment until just recently when a commander was appointed," she added.

Before she concluded, she challenged the Soldiers of the 104th Troop Command to continue along the path that they were on and keep those who are down range in mind.

"Remember to stay focused on the task at hand," she said. "Let us not forget our Soldiers who are currently deployed."

"The 104th I leave today is well-equipped, well-trained and ready to accomplish any mission."

Lobbenmeier enlisted in the Army Reserves in 1987, as a supply technician. In 1988, she joined the Reserve Officer Training Corp program at the University of Puerto Rico and in 1990 she was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the Transportation Corps. She is the Deputy U. S. Property and Fiscal Officer.

Incoming commander, Stout, enlisted in the U.S. Army in



Maj. Gen. Renaldo Rivera, the adjutant general of the Virgin Islands, passes the 104th Troop Command Battalion guidon to Lt. Col. Elroy Stout during a Change of Command ceremony, May 19. This action signifies that Stout accepts command of the battalion from Lt. Col. Deborah Lobbenmeier. *VING photo by Sgt. Thomas Tharrington II*

1985 as a non-commissioned officer in the Military Police Corp. In 1988, he began his career as an officer, attending the Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning, Ga. He has an extensive military background in the maintenance and logistics career fields.

Stout started his address with a prayer, after which he spoke from the heart about laying a good foundation with the command by remembering God, family, and mission always.

He went on to acknowledge The Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Renaldo Rivera. "I thank you and I pray to the Lord to guide and protect you and continue to grace you with the wisdom that he has blessed you with thus far."

Stout ended the ceremony by encouraging the troops to enjoy the rest of their day. "Troops of 104th [Troops Command] it is now time to have fun."

Lobbenmeier is scheduled to move on to the U.S. Army War College at Carlisle Barracks, Pa., the Army's most senior military educational institution.



# Virgin Islands National Guard

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Master Sgt. Ret. Harry Daniel from the Office of Veterans' Affairs is flanked by troops seeking information benefits and programs available to them through the Office of Veterans' Affairs, May 19.

*VING photo by Sgt. Athniel Thomas.*



Ivette Freytes (right foreground) and Connie Uphold (background), Veterans Affairs Health Services researchers with the Veteran's Health Care System, hand out calendars that help explain benefits available to transitioning service members and their families to ease the stress of post-deployment, May 20. The calendars featured members of the VI National Guard.

*VING photo by Sgt. Thomas Tharrington II.*



With the help of Maj. Gen. Renaldo Rivera, the adjutant general of the Virgin Islands, Myrtle Rogers, the mother of 1st Lt. Roger Simon, the former commander of the 651st Maintenance Company, pins the rank of first lieutenant to the soft cap during a Simon's promotion ceremony, May 20. Having been the youngest commander of the largest unit in the 104th Troop Command Battalion, the Rivera held Simon as a model of a young leader. Both Rivera and Lt. Col. Elroy Stout, the Battalion commander reiterated that they want to see more young officers follow in Simon's footsteps.

*VING photo by Sgt. Thomas Tharrington II*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **MAY 27—VITEMA Expo—11:30a.m. at Paul E. Joseph Stadium, Frederiksted.**
- **MAY 28--Memorial Day Parade starts at 9:30 a.m. Basin Triangle**
- **JUN 2-3 IDT—Emergency exercises.**
- **JUN 2— State Family Program Expo LAJ Readiness Center STX.**
- **JUN 3— State Family Program Expo LBF Readiness Center STT.**
- **JUN 16 Financial Workshop 8am to 5 p.m.**
- **JUN 25-30— VING Youth Camp, Boy Scout Camp; applications on intranet and at Family Program Office.**

