



104th Troop Command

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 2

22 JANUARY, 2012



LTC DEBORAH LOBBENMEIER
104TH TROOP COMMAND BN CDR

Happy New Year to all. On behalf of the entire Troop Command Staff, the Acting CSM and myself, we wish you and your family, a bright and prosperous New Year in 2012. The measure of our trials and successes of the past year, coupled with our hopes and resolutions of the New Year, often bring many mixed emotions. Let us continue to work together in this coming year toward the common goal of making the Virgin Islands National Guard, in particular the 104th Troop Command, a better place. I believe if we are truly honest with ourselves, we will recognize that united we shall overcome all the trials and tribulations of the year gone by and share in the successes of a better tomorrow and a better Virgin Islands National Guard. I wish God's peace to everyone. As a reminder next month's drill is scheduled for 4-5 Feb 12, which includes BN APFT. See you there! BE SAFE.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- FEB 4-5 IDT—BN APFT
- MAR 24-30 IDT—WEAPONS QUALIFICATION

Family, Loved Ones Tie on Yellow Ribbons

Family and friends of the territory's deployed Troops had an opportunity to 'tie a yellow ribbon' in honor of their loved one during a Yellow Ribbon Tree Adorning Ceremony on Sunday, Dec. 18 2011 at the Lieutenant Colonel Lionel A. Jackson Training Site in Estate Bethlehem.

The ceremony honored the 39 members of the 104th Rapid Aero-stat Initial Deployment team, which deployed to Afghanistan in September, as well as two members of the 285th Combat Communications Squadron, who deployed in October.

This was a very significant event in the course of a deployment. "This ceremony commemorates the sacrifices the servicemembers and their families are going through", said Anselma John-Ayala, a Family Assistance Center specialist with the Family Program Office.

"It also serves as a public demonstration to the servicemembers that we are remembering them while they are away," she added.

Delegate to Congress Donna M. Christensen also showed up to help tie some ribbons, which fit in perfectly with what Congress did the previous week – each member wore yellow ribbons in support of the troops returning home from Iraq.

John-Ayala went on point out the importance of remembering everyone in the deployment process.

"Children often times are overlooked. As adults we tend to forget that children are making sacrifices too," said Ayala. "Absence of a trusted love one, worry about their safety, and loneliness," are a few of these sacrifices.

The yellow ribbon is a symbol of hope. It is placed on homes, vehicles and personal items. The ribbons will hang on the tree until the servicemembers return home safely.





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Just a few words of encouragement.

No family on St. Croix is untouched by the closure of HOVENSA. The Virgin Islands National Guard has members who are employed and members whose parents, spouses, and children are employees of HOVENSA. As military members we are trained to be ready, but this event, which is perhaps more far-reaching and damaging than natural disasters, has struck an unexpected blow that, quite frankly, we were not prepared for during this global fiscal crisis. I want to extend my support to the families directly impacted by this closing. I want to caution all of us to get ready for the domino effect it will have on other businesses that relied on HOVENSA and the cost-cutting measures they will have to implement, which may include downsizing. At this time, let us all be grateful for what we have and offer whatever assistance we can to those affected. In that vein, I want to commend MSG Francisco Nazario for his email offering the Resilience training to those Soldiers and as he has done, encourage all commanders to make this training available to the Soldiers.

MG Renaldo Rivera
The Adjutant General
Virgin Islands National Guard



Spec. Leon Perkins of the 651st Maintenance Co. performs First Aid for Bleeding and /or Severed Extremity during the NCO/SOY Board 2012.

Message from the Resiliency Coordinator Office

It is no secret that the massive layoffs that are occurring in the Virgin Islands, both in private and government sectors, will affect our Soldiers and their families in some way or another. I personally know a few of HOVENSA employees that are also members of the Virgin Islands National Guard and may be affected by the closing of the refinery.

With that said, please be reminded that the Resilience Coordinator office is here to provide training that can help affected Soldiers in these times of adversity. I ask you not to come up with your own conclusion as to whether or not this training is needed by the Soldiers in your unit. This has been established for us already; "It is better to have it and not need it, than to need it and not have it."

I have attached the Resilience Trainer Assistant (RTA) class

schedule that I sent out yesterday to this email and urge all units to take advantage and schedule your Soldiers without any delays. Additional monthly classes can be conducted upon your request.

The Master Resilience Trainer (MRT) team consists of CSM Jerraine Miller (786th CSSB), MSG Milton Francis (651st Maint. Co.), SFC David Peltier (786th CSSB), SFC Oswald Williams (210th RTI) and myself. The MRT members are committed to provide Resilience training upon your request. Also there are certified RTA soldiers that can provide (squad size) Resilience training to their respective unit.

I humbly thank you for your anticipated cooperation in disseminating this information to all of VING Soldiers.

MSG Francisco Nazario