



COMMUNITY CALENDAR & MEDIA INVITE

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VING 2011 Non-commissioned Officer & Soldier of the Year Competition (January 22-23)

The Virgin Islands National Guard (VING) is hosting its Non-commissioned Officer (NCO) and Soldier of the Year (SOY) competition at the William D. Roebuck Industrial Park on St. Croix Saturday, January 22 & Sunday, January 23. The competition is held to select the most outstanding NCO & Soldier to represent a State or Territory in regional and national competitions.

The VING NCO and Soldier of the Year competition tests a soldier's skill and ability to perform physical fitness, map reading, Army Warrior Tasks and a 6-mile road march on Scenic route west above Carambola. During the board, competitors will demonstrate their knowledge on topics covered in the U.S. Army Board Study Guide.

Seven V.I. Guardsmen will participate in the competition. The NCO category includes Corporal through Sergeant First Class and the Soldier of the Year category includes Private through Specialist. Judging will be conducted by five voting members and one non-voting recorder. State Command Sergeant Major Mona Barnes serves as president of the board. Five retired senior NCOs will serve as mentors and evaluators during the competition.

Competitors will receive awards and certificates of participation. The winners go on to compete in the Region III Soldier & NCO of the Year Competition on April 11-15, 2011 at Fort McClellan, Alabama.

Last year, Sergeant Kendell Richmond (NCO of the Year - alternate) and Specialist Jason Young (Soldier of the Year) represented the Virgin Islands National Guard at the 2010 Region III NCO & Soldier of the Year competition at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. VING NCO of the Year Sergeant Ali Caines was unable to attend.

See schedule of activities attached. For more information contact Master Sergeant Karen D. Williams, VING Public Affairs Officer at cell (340) 332-5541.

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