



COMMUNITY CALENDAR & MEDIA ADVISORY



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VING graduates 1100 students in territorial Coole School Program

The Virgin Islands National Guard Counterdrug Task Force (CDTF) will host graduation ceremonies on St. Croix and St. Thomas as a culmination of its Coole School program. A total of 18 public schools and four private schools will participate to celebrate the accomplishments of the 1,100 students and 51 teachers from the year-long program.

On St. Croix, the ceremony is at the John H. Woodson Jr. High School on Thursday, May 3 at 9:30 a.m. where 600 students and 28 teachers will be recognized. On St. Thomas, the ceremony is at the Charlotte Amalie High School Ruth E. Thomas Auditorium on Friday, May 11, at 9:30 a.m.; approximately 500 students and 23 teachers will be honored.

The Coole School Program is designed to reinforce academics and character-building skills. It also has a research-based substance abuse prevention component. Coole School's vision and mission is to raise protective factors, lower risk factors and enhance refusal skills for students. These skills are taught by teachers, parents and Guardsmen through a character education program using games, puzzles and articles in a planner.

The Safe & Drug Free Coole School Program began in 2000 when the CDTF began supporting the U.S. Attorney's Office with its after school Peer Helpers Homework Assistance Program at Juanita Gardine Elementary School on St. Croix. Twelve years later, the VING CDTF conducts the Coole School Program at 13 schools on St. Croix and 10 schools on St. Thomas.

For more information on this event on St. Croix, contact Tech Sgt. Aretha Ventura at 340-712-7744 or email: aretha.ventura@vi.ngb.army.mil. On St. Thomas contact Sgt. 1st Class Kelvin Bailey at 340-776-3240 or email: Kelvin.baileyjr@vi.ngb.army.mil.

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