



# MEDIA INVITE & COMMUNITY RELEASE



State Office of Public Affairs

Office of the Adjutant General

BG (VI) GERARD A. JAMES, SR. JOINT FORCE HEADQUARTERS

VIRGIN ISLANDS NATIONAL GUARD

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Master Sergeant Karen D. Williams  
State Public Affairs Officer

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## VING Conducting Field Training Exercise Next Week on St. Croix June 1-5, 2016

The Virgin Islands National Guard will conduct its annual field training exercise on St. Croix from June 1-5, 2016. Training will occur at its primary location at the Estate Bethlehem Military Compound, but will include scenarios at various sites across the island. The Operation Forward Guardian exercise is the fourth in the series in preparation for Vigilant Guard 2017.

Vigilant Guard 2017 is a state or territory-wide exercise designed to test the response capability of government and non-governmental agencies. For the National Guard, it tests its homeland response mission and ability to provide all-hazards response and emergency operations. Vigilant Guard is a federally funded exercise that is supported by the National Guard Bureau and sponsored by the United States Northern Command. **In the Virgin Islands, VG-2017 takes place May 15-19, 2017.**



No other U.S. military force has the authorities, training and proximity to better perform a dual-mission role. On any given day, Guardsmen deploy to support domestic operations. Home station training is critical to maintain individual skills and unit competencies as the Guard remains a ready-force capable to rapidly respond in the homeland.

### Training Exercise May Impede Traffic on Roadways or Site Access:

Residents are asked to carefully maneuver day and night as they encounter vehicle convoys along the roadways. This training exercise may restrict access to some public or private sites where permission is granted. In addition, limit some military services and/or access to facilities. The exercise will utilize various training aids which will generate noise in and around the vicinity of operation. The VING apologizes in advance for any inconvenience their training exercise may cause residents or motorists during the weeklong event.

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To neighboring communities, there may be noise disturbances from equipment, generators, weapon systems or Guardsmen training that is required to improve our proficiency as we aim to serve and protect our community.

For further information, contact MSG Williams, State Public Affairs Officer at mobile (340)332-5541.

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### VISITOR & MEDIA DAY INVITE

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Brigadier General Deborah Y. Howell, the Adjutant General Virgin Islands National Guard, invites you to attend our **Distinguished Visitor & Media Day** during the Operation Forward Guardian IV Field Training Exercise & Capabilities Demonstration. Local government representatives will be in attendance.

**Saturday, 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016, arrival 10:30 a.m.**

Guided Tour & Demonstrations: 11 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Estate Bethlehem Military Compound, St. Croix, U.S. V.I.

Attire for Field Environment (heat/dust) is proper footwear, hat, clothing, eyewear and potentially rain gear.

**Photo ID required for site access.**

Please email MSG Williams, PAO, to confirm your plan to attend. RSVP by Tuesday, May 31, 2016.

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For more information, contact MSG Karen D. Williams at (340)712-7750 or cell 332-5541.

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