



**The Virginia
Defense Force**

Bugler



DECEMBER 2013

MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDING GENERAL: *Looking Forward*



MG John Taylor

All of the planning for the transformation of the Virginia Defense Force to a more responsive organization has become reality over the past several weeks. Perhaps the most significant action in this regard was the activation of four of the new regiments at a special ceremony on 28 September 2013 at Fort Pickett. (An article on this event is in this newsletter.) The new structure positions us for success. But to ensure that success, we have to focus on our priorities.

First of all, our only mission is to perform those Defense Support to Civil Authorities tasks assigned to us by the Adjutant General. Our new structure will make us more responsive to these tasks, with our new Multi-function Response Groups (MRGs) providing trained, capable and ready soldiers and equipment when called upon. Every soldier of the VDF must be a member of one of these teams. Leaders at every level must ensure that every one of their soldiers is prepared and trained with a critical skill, whether working in a shelter, with one of our IMATs or MCPs, in the Joint Operations Center or emergency Operations Center, or as a member of one of the other teams by which we support the Department of Military Affairs.

Next, I expect that every VDF soldier and officer will continue to operate and act as true military professionals. That means using the chain of command at all times, and engaging in “two-way communications”. Leaders at every level must ensure that information is passed to all of their troops in a timely manner, just as every soldier needs to bring concerns and ideas back up through the chain. In this manner, mutual trust and cooperation are developed, leading to success in any assigned task.

Finally, all leaders (and in the VDF, every soldier is a leader, regardless of rank!) are responsible for two things. Each one must ensure that he or she is looking out for the soldiers in his or her command. This means not only taking care of the physical needs of soldiers called to duty; it also requires them to ensure that all soldiers take advantage of the many training opportunities provided by the VDF or by such agencies as FEMA. Also, every soldier and leader is responsible to the citizens of the Commonwealth to maintain and account for all equipment assigned.

As the New Year begins, I look forward to working with each of you in 2014 in our mission of “Virginians Protecting Virginians!”

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**MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF OF STAFF, COL JUSTIN CARLITTI:*****The VDF Force Modernization Plan: The Transition Continues***

Over the past few months, we have completed a significant transition that will ensure the relevance of the VDF as a force provider well into the future. We transformed our force structure from one centered on a light infantry division to one that focuses on our primary mission of providing Defense Support to Civilian Authorities (DSCA). The basic component of our force is the Multifunctional Response Groups (MRGs) and the various response teams arrayed under them. These task-organized units are the foundation of the VDF. With this comes a significant change in our staffing model with lean headquarters' elements, i.e, DIV, DRF and REGT, and robust MRGs. Our center of gravity, the source of our strength, are the men and women of our MRGs. As we move forward as a force, it is essential that we recruit new members to continue to fill our ranks. I charge you to look for like-minded individuals who pride themselves with a sense of volunteerism and commitment to service. So look in your communities or at work for such individuals who would like to serve this great cause – “Virginians serving Virginia.” If you have any ideas for a recruiting event, please bring them up to your chain of command, or bring a prospective recruit to a drill. For no matter how many TACPAKs or MCPs that we might have, without you, the dedicated professional, these capabilities will go unused in times of need

***Virginia Defense Force Conducts Unit Redesignation Ceremony*****BY MR. COTTON PURYEAR, VIRGINIA GUARD PUBLIC AFFAIRS**

FORT PICKETT, Va. — The Virginia Defense Force conducted a Change of Unit Designation Ceremony Sept. 28, 2013, at Fort Pickett as part of the organization's ongoing reorganization and modernization effort. During the ceremony, the VDF stood down the Black Horse and Highland Brigades and activated the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Regiment Response Teams. In previously held ceremonies, the VDF deactivated the Lafayette Brigade and Division Troop Command and stood up the 1st and 6th RRTs. The reorganization will make them more flexible and capable of providing the mission response packages as prescribed by the Virginia National Guard Defense Support to Civil Authorities Playbook.

“Today is the first day of the future for the Virginia Defense Force,” said Maj. Gen. (Va.) John Taylor, commander of the VDF. “A lot of people don't like change, but I can assure you that this change process we are going through went through detailed planning and analysis, and it will allow us to be more flexible and more capable of responding to a disaster to help the citizens of the commonwealth.”



Virginia Defense Force Conducts Unit Redesignation Ceremony con't



The Virginia Defense Force conducts a Change of Unit Designation Ceremony Sept. 28, 2013, at Fort Pickett as part of the organization's ongoing reorganization effort. During the ceremony, the VDF stood down the Black Horse and Highland Brigades and activated the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th Regiments. In previously held ceremonies, the VDF deactivated the Lafayette Brigade and stood up the 1st Regiment. The all-volunteer VDF is in the final stages of a reorganization that will make them more flexible and capable of providing the mission packages as prescribed by the Virginia National Guard Defense Support to Civil Authorities Playbook. (Photo by Cotton Puryear, Virginia National Guard Public Affairs)

The VDF is an all-volunteer force authorized by the Code of Virginia and organized under the Virginia Department of Military Affairs reporting to the Adjutant General of Virginia. Member of the VDF volunteer their time during monthly drill periods, but are paid when called to state active duty by the Governor of Virginia.

"You are the key, and our mission is a noble one," Taylor told the VDF members at the ceremony. "What better thing could we do than help our fellow Virginias in their time of need?"

At the end of the ceremony, retiring VDF Command Sgt. Maj. Andy Stevens was recognized for his 28 years of active duty service in the U. S. Army and 11 years of service in the VDF. Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis Green, senior enlisted leader for the Virginia National Guard, presented Stevens with the "Keeper of the Colors" statue on behalf of the senior NCOs of the Guard, and Stevens also received the VDF Distinguished Service Medal.



Virginia Defense Force Conducts Unit Redesignation Ceremony con't

After the ceremony, Maj. Gen. Daniel E. Long, Jr., the Adjutant General of Virginia, addressed VDF leaders at their annual Commander's Conference.

"Thanks for what you all do," Long said. "What you do for the commonwealth of Virginia is amazing. Not many people are willing to give up their weekends and do the kinds of things that you do as you volunteer your time and continue to serve."

Under the new organization, the VDF is split into an East and West Division Response Forces, each commanded by a VDF brigadier general. The 1st and 2nd RRTs and Garrison Command fall under DRF-East, and the 3rd, 4th and 5th RRTs fall under DRF-West. There are multiple Multi-function Response Groups in each RRT, the MRGs each contain different response teams that provide a variety of different functions including communications support with Incident Management Assistance Teams, High Frequency Radio Teams, State Agencies Radio System Team and Mobile Communication Platform Teams as well as State Managed Shelter Teams. Other VDF missions include providing augmentation teams to the Virginia Guard Joint Operations Center and Virginia Emergency Operations Center as well as resources for chaplain support and access control.

An Incident Management Assistance Team deploys with National Guard mission commanders during a response operation to assist with providing communications capability and help the commander manage information and reporting requirements to Virginia Guard's Joint Operations Center.

A State Managed Shelter Liaison Team provides trained shelter support specialists for state managed shelter operations to the Virginia Department of Social Services to assist with planning and shelter operations as well as logistics coordination.

A Mobile Communication Platform Team provides a wide variety of interoperable communications capability that are invaluable when severe weather degrades normal communication channels.

A State Agencies Radio System Team is specially trained to operate the radio system used by the Virginia State Police.

***Many thanks to the Virginia National Guard Public Affairs Office for permission to reproduce this article.*



VDF Uniforms Currently in Transition,

By LTC Kent Brinkley

As uniform styles and supply vendor contracts typically evolve within the federal military establishment, the availability of certain uniform types becomes increasingly limited, and those occasional changes ultimately filter down to and impact the nation's State Guards/ Defense Forces. Such is the case with the former Army Battle Dress Uniform (BDU) in the Woodland Camouflage pattern; a utility uniform type which is rapidly being phased out of existence, and is getting increasingly harder to procure at affordable prices. The U.S. Army phased out the authorized wear of that utility uniform in 2008, and that uniform style is now getting increasingly harder to procure, as supplier's contracts are expiring. With this recent development, the VDF has been discussing with the Department of Military Affairs' (DMA) leadership the need to update our uniforms; as a part of the VDF's 2013 re-organization.

After several months of negotiating over which, selected, U.S. Army uniforms and items will be allowable for wear by the Commonwealth's SDF troops, The Adjutant General of Virginia (TAG-VA) recently approved several, major and important, uniform changes for the VDF. These several authorized changes have just been

incorporated into a newly-revised *VDF Regulation #670-1, Wear and Appearance of Virginia Defense Force Uniforms and Insignia*, dated. NOV 13. (See a copy of these newly-published regulations for the specifics)



ACU Style Utility Blouse



ACU Type Trousers



VDF Uniforms Currently in Transition, con't

Effective on 10 NOV 2013, the VDF *immediately* begins a three-year-long transition period to phase-in the authorized use/wear of a new Class C (utility) uniform, which will be a modified Army Combat Uniform (ACU) (but will still be worn in the Woodland Camouflage pattern only); a new Class A (dress) uniform, which is a modified Army Service Uniform (ASU); and (for the first time!) the optional purchase/wear of a Blue Mess Dress uniform.

The new Class C (ACU-style) uniform will feature all-subdued name tapes, rank insignia, VDF shoulder patch and skill badges; all of which will be affixed to the uniform blouse via easy-on/off, "hook and loop", Velcro-type closures. Sand-colored combat boots and the patrol cap will complete this uniform. During the stated transition period, the current Class C (BDU) uniform and the current Class A (Green) and B uniforms will still be authorized for wear, but these (soon-to-be-obsolete) uniforms will be phased out by **NLT 30 SEP 2016**.



Newly Approved VDF Class C
Blouse with all insignia shown



Newly-approved VDF Class A
(ASU-style) (Officer's) Hat & Blouse
With all authorized insignia shown





*The Virginia Defense Force Non-Commissioned Officer of 2012:
SGT Charles E. Clark*



SGT Charles E. Clark
VDF NCO of 2013

Maj. Gen. (Va.) John Taylor, commander of the Virginia Defense Force, along with Command Sgt. Maj. Dennis A. Green, Virginia National Guard senior enlisted leader, recognize Sgt. Charles E. Clark, the VDF noncommissioned officer of the year for 2013, Nov. 2, 2013, in Richmond, Va. SGT Clark and other exemplary candidates appeared before the VDF NCO of Year Selection Board held at Ft. Pickett on 28 Sept 2013. SGT Clark has served five years in the VDF and was a member of 1st MP Co, MP BN, DTC for the period of the award . SGT Clark is currently a member of MRG A, 1 REGT.



L-R: CSM Dennis A. Green– VANG, MG
John Taylor– VDF, SGT Charles E. Clark-
VDF, and CSM Alan Grandis, VDF

*Many Thanks to the Virginia National
Guard Public Affairs Office for permission
to reproduce the photos.*



Make a Difference



2013-2014 VDF HEADQUARTERS MONTHLY DRILL AND TRAINING HIGHLIGHTS

7 Dec: Drill at Waller Depot. (NOTE: FTX may be spread over two drills, 7 & 14 Dec to accommodate regimental drill schedules)

Division FTX with COMMEX, HFRT, MCP, and IMAT participation at home stations.

HOLIDAY



LUNCH!!!

7 Dec: CSE Bedford Traffic Control at Christmas Parade

12 Dec: CSE Lynchburg Access Control at Health Classic Holiday Celebration

14 Dec: CSE Danville Traffic Control at Christmas Parade

2014

4 Jan: Div Hq Staff Drill, Waller Depot

11 Jan: Inauguration Support, Richmond

15 Jan: DMA Day, Richmond

28-30 Mar: Training MUTA for PME at Ft. Pickett scheduled. More info to come!



Virginians Helping Virginians



COMMANDING GENERAL'S RECOMMENDED READING LIST

The books listed below are recommended by Major General John D. Taylor, CG of the Virginia Defense Force, as a source of self-study. They are recommended to soldiers of the VDF regardless of rank. The books are listed in the categories of Part I: General Interest and History; Part II: Leadership and Incident Management; and Part III: Biography. All these books are available at a local library; ask your librarian for an inter-library loan if one is not available at your local branch. Also, most of these titles are available on Nook and Kindle.

Part II was to be Leadership & Incident Management, but it was decided to do Biography instead. All of these titles make excellent Christmas presents!

PART II: Biography

Crazy Horse, *The Life behind the Legend*, by Mike Sajna. A fascinating biography of one of the most important Native American leaders in the struggle to protect their homeland and way of life. Sajna follows Crazy Horse from his days as a young boy chasing down wild horses to his later years, including new views on his role in the Battle of Little Big Horn and eventual surrender and murder. Using an extensive collection of historic records, *Crazy Horse* is one of the most accurate accounts of the Oglala chief, separating facts from the many myths that have been passed down by other writers.

Personal Memoirs of Ulysses S. Grant, by Ulysses S. Grant. First published in 1885, and still in print. This autobiography focuses on Grant's military career, with candid depictions of his Civil War Battles. An honest and straightforward book, it depicts an officer who was known for his clarity in writing orders, for understanding political imperatives, and for tenaciousness in accomplishing his missions.

Agent of Destiny: The Life and Times of General Winfield Scott, by John s. d. Eisenhower. An excellent biography of the man who was America's premier soldier in the early days of the republic. He was a hero of the War of 1812 and the War with Mexico, and was the commanding General of the US Army at the start of the civil War. Most importantly, he is regarded as America's first professional soldier, and he was instrumental in transforming the Army into "a disciplined, professional force, capable of effective and sustained campaigning."



CG's Reading List con't:

My American Journey, by Colin Powell and Joseph E. Persico. This book is a personal memoir, written by a man who has risen to the highest levels of the US military and political worlds; four-star general, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, National Security Advisor, Secretary of State. Powell is best remembered as the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff during the Gulf War. But the book also examines his time in the Army in Korea and Vietnam, and how all of those experiences helped him in his career as a soldier and leader.

Warlord, A Life of Winston Churchill At War, 1878-1965, by Carlo D'Este. This biography takes a different approach to Winston Churchill— his life as a soldier and later as a leader. Beginning with his career in India and following through to the Boer War-WWI and WWII, D'Este examines Churchill's spectacular tactical and strategic successes and his equally spectacular failures. The book also looks at Churchill's relationships with his superiors and later with his generals & commanders during both world wars.

It Doesn't Take a Hero, by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf and Peter Petre. This autobiography of the commanding general of the US Central Command during the Persian Gulf War of 1990-91 focuses largely on the events of Desert Shield and Desert Storm. But it also looks at General Schwarzkopf's experiences throughout his Army career and how they influenced his qualities of leadership and military professionalism.

Washington: A Life, by Ron Chernow. Winner of the 2011 Pulitzer for biography, this one volume biography of our first President, while massive in length & depth, reads quickly. Chernow does a magnificent job. He writes about Washington's ability to learn from his errors and his development as a young leader fighting in the French & Indian Wars to his tenure as President. Chernow writes about a complex man and how he exercised leadership over his family, his slaves, his soldiers and how he led a new nation onto the world stage.

Decision Points, Pres. George W. Bush. Not a typical autobiography, Decision Points looks specifically at Bush's 8 years as President and the crossroads at which he found himself so soon in his first year as president, which defined the rest of his administrations. While discussing how he chose his administration, how he worked with his generals, the worst moments of his Presidency, the former President brings insight into the vast changes our military has undergone due to the wars of the past decade.



The Historian's Corner: The Virginia Militia in the 20th Century:

By COL Dennis P. Mroczkowski

Theodore Roosevelt may have called the war with Spain a “splendid little war,” but it revealed many weaknesses with the United States militia. Some of these, such as non-standardization of equipment, training and uniforms, had become evident as early as the Civil War. But the Spanish-American War brought other problems, particularly that of sending federalized militia units to fight overseas. Many governors and soldiers questioned the federal government’s legal authority to do this. To solve these problems, militia officers and members of Congress sought to strengthen the militia through new legislation. In 1903 “An Act to Improve the Efficiency of the Militia” was passed.

Among other issues, the militia was now divided into two classes. The first was the Organized Militia, now called the National Guard. The other was the Reserve Militia, composed of all male citizens aged 18 to 45. The president was authorized to call out the National Guard for up to nine months, and this time was later greatly lengthened. Also, the question of National Guard units serving overseas was eventually resolved. But these laws meant that in a time of war, states could be stripped of their military forces. When the United States entered World War I that is what happened.

Very shortly after the declaration of war, Congress passed legislation enabling states to maintain “home guards,” which were to be armed, uniformed and equipped by the Secretary of War. Governor Stuart of Virginia quickly took advantage of this authorization, and the state began raising companies of Virginia Volunteers. In some cases these companies came from older, established militia units that had not joined the National Guard, such as the Richmond Light Infantry Blues. They were raised within cities or counties, across the state, and eventually totaled 31 companies. These were generally inde-

pendent units, but there were two battalions of four companies each: the Richmond Light Infantry Blues Battalion in Richmond, and the Jo Lane Stern Battalion in Roanoke. By the end of the year the Virginia Volunteers totaled 69 officers and 1,386 enlisted men. In July, 1917, the Governor also issued a call for the organization of Home Defense companies across the state. The main difference between these two organizations was that the Volunteers were liable for duty anywhere in the state, while the Home Guards would only be called out for duty in their home cities and counties.

These volunteers were called upon on a few occasions to render aid to the state authorities. They helped to maintain law and order in cases of racially motivated disturbances in Hopewell and Alexandria. They also assisted with the apprehension of criminals, and escorted prisoners who were in danger of lynching by enraged mobs. In one instance, in 1919, the company at Winchester protected Prohibition officers, who had shot and killed a moonshiner, from outraged local citizens.

The signing of the armistice did not mean a speedy disbandment for these units, although their members were anxious to return full time to their civilian occupations and lives. They had to remain in readiness until the return of the National Guard from service in France, and its subsequent reorganization. To provide some relief to these state soldiers, they were exempted from their regular drills, as long as they maintained their arms and equipment, and kept the companies ready for quick assembly in case of a call to duty. Most of the Virginia Volunteers and Home Defense companies were released from state duty in 1919, but the last company was not disbanded until 1920.



The Virginia Militia in the 20th Century, con't:

The interwar years saw many improvements in the National Guard. But with the preparations of the United States for war, and particularly with the mobilization of the National Guard in 1940, the issue of state forces was raised again. Congress accordingly amended the National Defense Act of 1916 to authorize the states to raise "military forces other than the National Guard." The law also authorized the War Department, again, to provide arms and training for these new "State Guards."

With the entry of the United States into World War II, Governor Darden quickly authorized the organization of the Virginia Protective Force. Units were formed on the local city and county level, but the unlike in the previous war, the VPF was organized into battalions of four companies each. Originally, they were armed with old Enfield rifles, but by 1943, these were changed to 3 Thompson submachine guns and 57 shotguns per company. Uniforms were very hard to come by at first, and at one time, the VPF was dressed in old forest green uniforms of the Civilian Conservation Corps. But by 1944, the uniforms and equipment of the VPF matched that of their brothers in the National Guard. By the end of 1943, the VPF totaled 3,945 officers and men. In 1944, an act of the Virginia Assembly changed the name from Virginia Protective Force to Virginia State Guard.

The VPF was quickly put to service, initially guarding local infrastructure and places considered vital to the war effort. They also assisted with black-out drills, which were of great importance for the protection of our merchant shipping passing along Virginia's coasts. In one instance, two companies were called out to patrol the city of Suffolk in the face of a threatened racially motivated disturbance. The VPF also had its own Aviation Branch, made up of private pilots, some of whom were also members of new Civil Air Patrol. These pilots often flew anti-submarine patrols off Virginia's coast.

Just as in World War I, authorization was also given to the states to raise home defense forces. Virginia organized a series of companies called the Virginia Reserve Militia. The membership of these companies was usually older men, mostly sportsmen familiar with their local areas and used to carrying firearms afield. The companies were formed in cities and counties across the state, and the soldiers had to provide their own arms and ammunition. They were not required to drill, as were their counterparts in the VPF, but the VRM companies were assigned to the VPF companies for training. Late in 1943, the VRM had an organization of 120 companies and totaled 7,790 officers and men.

The end of the war did not mean that the state's soldiers were released from their duties. As at the end of the previous conflict, they had to await the return and reorganization of the National Guard to Virginia. Governor Darden therefore asked them to remain on duty until 30 June 1946. The last act the VSG performed for the state came as a result of a strike by members of the Virginia Electric and Power Company. In order to ensure that the state continued to have the electrical power it needed, Governor Tuck tasked the VSG to deliver to the striking workers notices drafting them into the Unorganized Militia. The notices were delivered on 29 March 1946, and the strike quickly ended.

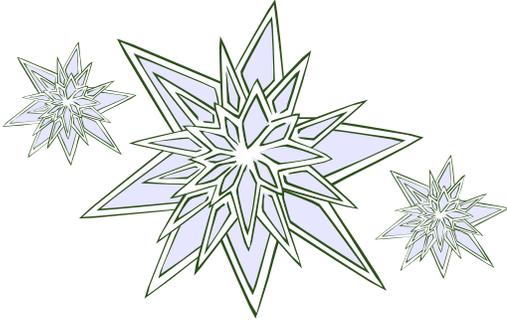
The VPF, VSG and VRM had all provided excellent service to the state in a critical time. In recognition of their devotion, all members were awarded a state service ribbon. But the disbandment of these units did not mean that their experience would disappear. Some of these soldiers would be available in the 1980s to work on the establishment of a new Virginia State Guard, which would eventually be called the Virginia Defense Force.





Safety Tips for The Winter Season:

By LTC Timothy Silver and LTC M. Kent Brinkley



It is that time of year to remind all VDF personnel about necessary outdoor safety precautions to prevent Cold Weather Injuries (CWI). While we cannot know what the coming winter will bring to Virginia, the potential for bad weather *always* exists. The possibility also exists that elements of Virginia's Department of Military Affairs (including the VDF) may be called to respond to one or more severe winter storm events. It is certain VDF soldiers will be supporting the governor's inauguration in January and they will be working outdoors in wintertime temperatures for several hours, and will be vulnerable to CWI. We all need to be safety-minded!

Cold weather-related injuries include those obvious freezing injuries due to decreased temperatures (hypothermia, frostbite, nonfreezing cold injury; etc.); fires and injuries due to improper use of space heaters; carbon monoxide poisoning; and accidents due to impaired physical and/or mental function resulting from cold stress. CWI's can also occur whenever an individual gets too wet; due to rain or water immersion. Therefore, protective rain gear also needs to be part of a VDF member's clothing.

The most frequent cold weather injuries include **hypothermia**, a dramatic lowering of the body's core temperature. This can occur even at temperatures above freezing. Soldiers may begin to fumble at tasks, stumble while walking, and begin mumbling and grumbling. They may also be shivering violently. They should be quickly warmed by insulation, moving to a warm place, removal of wet clothing, and in extreme cases, getting them to a hospital. **Frostbite** is caused by exposure of skin, especially fingers, ears, nose and face to below freezing temperatures. This is a serious condition that must be treated immediately. The skin can begin to tingle, then becomes numb, and "wooden" to the touch, and is waxy looking or gray in dark-skinned soldiers. Skin can be re-warmed at room temperature by removal to a warm place, or by immersion in warm (98-104 degrees) water. Soldiers with frostbite should also be considered to have hypothermia. **Immersion foot** occurs from keeping the feet in boots for prolonged periods in cold (32-60 degrees) wet conditions. The feet become tender and painful, and can turn red, swell and begin to bleed. They may eventually become grey or blue. Boots and cold, wet clothing should be removed, and the feet gently washed and dried, then elevated and covered with layers of loose, warm clothing or blankets. Soldiers with immersion foot should not walk, and should be evacuated for medical treatment.



Safety Tips for The Winter Season, con't:

It is vitally important for all VDF troops to use cold weather clothing properly, ensure proper nutrition is partaken, and maintain adequate hydration, to ward off possibly debilitating CWI. When wearing clothing in cold weather, remember the acronym **C-O-L-D**. **C**: Keep your clothing clean; **O**: Avoid getting overheated; **L**: Wear clothing loose and in several layers; **D**: Keep your clothing dry.

Leaders at all levels are responsible for ensuring that VDF soldiers are rested and have had adequate food and water. They must inspect their troops to ensure they have the proper protective clothing and equipment (field jackets, hats, scarves, gloves, glove liners, ponchos, canteens), and have had training on wearing appropriate cold weather gear. Finally, leaders need to check troops to see they avoid using alcohol and tobacco prior to working outdoors for any length of time, beyond just a few minutes. The next steps to staying safe are to conduct pre-mission planning; know what the weather forecast for the area of operations (AO) will be; and apply the buddy system and other risk management procedures, to monitor the health and performance of VDF citizen-soldiers deployed/engaged in duties outdoors. Leaders also need to quickly report any signs or symptoms of CWI in their troops to attached medical support personnel. Winter operations require all VDF members to expect cold conditions and plan ahead to stay safe!

Winter storms can range from a moderate snow over a few hours to a blizzard with blinding, wind driven snow that lasts for several days. Some winter storms are large enough to affect several states, while others affect only a single community. Many winter storms are accompanied by dangerously low temperatures and sometimes by strong winds, icing, sleet and freezing rain.*

Winter Storm Outlook

Winter storm conditions are possible in the next 2 to 5 days.

Winter Storm Watch

Winter storm conditions are possible within the next 36 to 48 hours. People in a watch area should review their winter storm plans and stay informed about weather conditions.

WINTER STORMS:

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE!!

Winter Weather Advisory

Winter weather conditions are expected to cause significant inconveniences and may be hazardous. When caution is used, these situations should not be life threatening.

Winter Storm Warning

Life-threatening, severe winter conditions have begun or will begin within 24 hours. People in a warning area should take precautions immediately

** Information courtesy of Red Cross*