

Below are links to the photos from the Richmond and Roanoke armory closings, as well as a summary of the news coverage. For more news, visit the VaGuard PAO News Bookmarks page at <http://delicious.com/VaGuardPAO> .

Photos from Richmond armory closing on Flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157622826726597/>

Photos from Richmond armory closing on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=135303&id=52585440840&l=eb40843d7e>

Photos from Roanoke armory closing on Flickr:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/vanguardpao/sets/72157622951242078/>

Photos from Roanoke armory closing on Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=135302&id=52585440840&l=9339e87bf0>

Richmond National Guard armory to close (NBC 12)

<http://www.nbc12.com/global/story.asp?s=11629198> (Click on link for video)

Posted: Dec 06, 2009 10:40 AM Sunday, December 6, 2009 10:40 AM EST

Updated: Dec 07, 2009 8:52 AM Monday, December 7, 2009

RICHMOND, VA. (AP) - Virginia National Guard is marking the official closure of the Richmond and Roanoke armories with two ceremonies. The Guard says officials will conduct closing ceremonies this weekend for the two armories.

The decision to close the Richmond armory was part of Gov. Tim Kaine's 2010 budget reduction plan.

The Roanoke armory is being torn down as part of a city parks and recreation plan.

Officials say closing both facilities will save about \$115,000 in 2010.

About 375 soldiers currently stationed at the Richmond facility will be relocated to other installations across the state.

About 275 soldiers from the Roanoke facility also will be relocated.

Richmond's Dove Street Armory Closed Guard Members Will Be Spread Out Across the State (WTVR) <http://www.wtvr.com/news/wtvr-armory-closing-new,0,4661232.story> (Click on link for video)

December 5, 2009

RICHMOND - A ceremony marking the closure was held in Richmond Sunday.

The building has served as a home for Richmond's National Guard for decades. Many guardsman CBS 6 spoke with Sunday say they're sad to see the facility shut down.

State officials say closing both the Dove Street Armory and another facility in Roanoke will save about \$115,000 in 2010. But Governor Tim Kaine says it's not all about the money. He says the building is old, and starting to show its age. Kaine tells CBS 6 it was supposed to be shut down long before the State's budget woes began.

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Richmond armory closes (Richmond Times Dispatch)

http://www2.timesdispatch.com/rtd/news/local/article/DOVEGAT07_20091206-183801/309932/

A short, simple ceremony officially closed the 44-year-old Richmond armory today.

Retired and active members of Virginia National Guard gathered at the Dove Street Armory in North Richmond as the U.S. and Virginia flags were lowered for the last time. A similar closing ceremony was held earlier in the day at the 54-year-old Roanoke armory.

Closing the Richmond armory, which was dedicated on May 10, 1965, was part of Gov. Timothy M. Kaine's 2010 budget reduction plan. The closures will result in an annual savings of \$115,000.

Nearly 375 soldiers are affected by the Richmond closure and will report to other Guard facilities in the area for their one-weekend-a-month duty assignments.

"It's a sad day to have a facility with as much history as this close, but we understand that these days are tough for all state agencies," said Virginia National Guard Maj. Cotton Puryear. "We understand the decision behind closing this facility. There were a lot of soldiers here today with a lot of memories, but the Virginia Guard will be able to continue to provide assistance to the city of Richmond from the armory locations we're moving these units to."

The number of Virginia Army National Guard Soldiers and units affected by the Richmond closing are:

- Headquarters, 91st Troop Command, consisting of nearly 40 soldiers, will relocate to the Sandston Readiness Center

- Headquarters Company, 276th Engineer Battalion and Company A, 276th Engineer Battalion, consisting of nearly 175 soldiers, will relocate to the Petersburg Readiness Center.

- Headquarters Company, 1710th Transportation Company, consisting of nearly 65 soldiers, will relocate to the Emporia and Virginia Beach Readiness Centers.

- Battery A, 1st Battalion, 111th Field Artillery Regiment, consisting of approximately 95 Soldiers, will relocate to the Sandston Readiness Center.

National Guard says goodbye to Roanoke Armory (WDBJ 7)
<http://www.wdbj7.com/Global/story.asp?S=11627553> (click on link for video)

The Roanoke-based soldiers will be relocated to one of the other 46 Virginia Armories, but they still could be called to help the Roanoke Valley. After more than 50 years, the National Guard's Roanoke Armory has bid farewell. News7 was the first to report plans to vacate the building in August.

Soldiers, retirees and families came to give one last salute at a ceremony held Saturday morning.

"It's happy and sad at the same time," says Brigadier General Stephen Huxtable with the Virginia National Guard.

"Time moves on, and hopefully we'll move with it," says Landon G. Wilkes, a retiree.

Wilkes spoke at the closing, because he was there when it opened.

"It is sad to leave something like this," said Wilkes. "I spent a lot of time here."

The City of Roanoke owns the building, but plans haven't been set for what will happen to the property.

"Every military unit we have in the Virginia National Guard, and we have 8,000 soldiers, has a home, has an armory," says Huxtable.

At time of war, it's a jumping off point for deploying troops. At time of local disaster, it's a staging platform to reinforce rescue units. The flag was lowered and presented for the archives along with a time capsule.

"But the military is also built on nostalgia, built on tradition, built on values," says Huxtable. "All those three elements is what this building represents and what this city represents."

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"We will be responding to any type of emergency that the Governor calls us out for, with the same spirit and desire that we've always had," says Huxtable.

"It's been hectic at times but it's been great, and I'd do it over again," says Wilkes.

Roanoke armory closes its doors (Roanoke Times)

<http://www.roanoke.com/news/roanoke/wb/228723>

The Virginia National Guard officially locks the doors and turns out the lights for the final time today at the armory on Reserve Avenue.

A 10 a.m. ceremony marks the guard's move away from its Roanoke home of the past half-century ahead of the demolition of the city-owned building.

City plans designate the entire block, including former parks and recreation offices and a school maintenance building, to be cleared for a public park, Assistant City Manager Jim Grigsby said.

Once intended for the city's much-debated amphitheater project, the land now is slated to remain green space until planning is done on how to develop it, Grigsby said.

The land to be cleared is near ball fields built on the site of the demolished Victory Stadium.

The closing of the armory caused four guard units based in Roanoke to shift to Danville, Lynchburg, Petersburg and Virginia Beach.

Sgt. 1st Class Jeffrey Morris was taking care of final moving chores at the armory Friday. He said that the National Guard's recruiting office, where he works, already is open in its new location at National College's campus at 1813 E. Main St. in Salem.

Va Guard Holding Ceremonies For Armory Closings (Associated Press)

<http://wjj.com/wireapnewsva/Virginia.National.Guard.2.1351641.html>

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MAJ Puryear

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cotton.puryear@us.army.mil (E-mail)
804-539-1451 (Mobile)