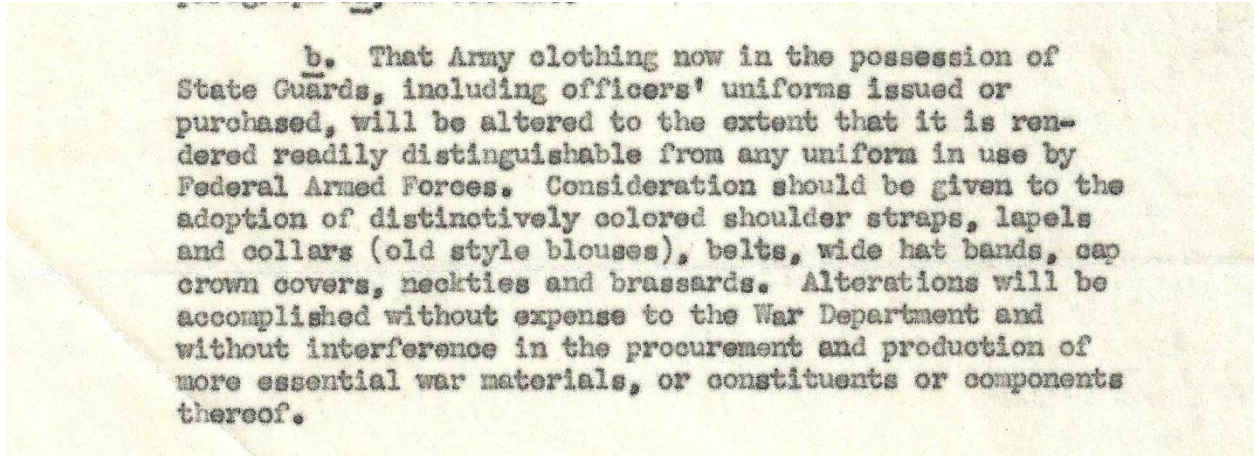


## From the VANG Files: Virginia Protective Force Uniforms in WW2 (part 2)

The VANG is very lucky that a number of years ago someone had the foresight to pack away and save all of the paper State Headquarters documents from the 1920s to the early 1960s.

If you recall, in a previous update we learned about the problem with many of the different state's Home Guard units developing their own uniforms—some of which merely wore Regular Army uniforms – and this led to much confusion at military facilities as to who was Regular, Reserve or State guard. Many states did not heed the warning and so in March 1942 the Department of the Army issued the below guidance:



b. That Army clothing now in the possession of State Guards, including officers' uniforms issued or purchased, will be altered to the extent that it is rendered readily distinguishable from any uniform in use by Federal Armed Forces. Consideration should be given to the adoption of distinctively colored shoulder straps, lapels and collars (old style blouses), belts, wide hat bands, cap crown covers, neckties and brassards. Alterations will be accomplished without expense to the War Department and without interference in the procurement and production of more essential war materials, or constituents or components thereof.

So how did it work out? Let's look at a period photo:



From right to left we have BG Waller (TAG) and another unidentified BG wearing Dress Blues and “pinks and greens.” Both appropriate since they are National Guard Officers.



Next to them are LTC Crump and COL John Cutchins. Cutchins is wearing the 29<sup>th</sup> ID patch because he was mobilized with the Division and served for a short while as the Assistant division Commander. Crump is sort of caught in the middle because he is the USP&D for the VANG but also is listed as a LTC in the Virginia Protective Force... so wearing “pinks and greens” is not out of the question for him.





The last four are a mixed group- from the right, an unidentified officer in pinks and greens, a VPF officer notable for his dress gray trousers, a “pinks and greens”-wearing US Army Reserve officer from the 80<sup>th</sup> Division, and finally a VPF officer in a Class B VPF Gray uniform like the one below.



So what’s the lesson we have learned here. Virginia stepped up and created distinct uniforms to make identification of VPF personnel easy.

One last note- we have no clue what this meeting was about but it certainly brought out the crowd....look carefully at the second row—On the left is a guy who appears to be desperate to make sure he is in the photo, the center VPF officer is totally focused on the front, and on the right is guy who should be in a rest home and not a military planning meeting—proving again that in WWII there was no such thing as being too young or too old to serve



Till next time when we will walk again through the history of the Virginia National Guard; one event or one document at a time.

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