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## Avanel Macedon Becomes First Female to Achieve Chief Warrant Officer 4 Rank in VI National Guard

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Col. Sally Petty (left), Army chief of staff for the VING and Joel Shoy (right), nephew of chief Macedon, pins on CW4 Signal Corps rank on newly promoted Chief Warrant Officer 4 Avanel Macedon (center) By. VING PAO staff

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Avanel O. Macedon made V.I. National Guard history as the first female to ever hold the rank of Chief Warrant Officer 4, the National Guard has announced.

Soldiers, Airmen, retirees, families, and friends gathered in a promotion ceremony held at the Joint Forces Headquarters drill hall floor. The venue was decorated with memories, words of inspiration, and beautiful figurines that symbolized women empowerment.

"Today, I stand before you owning my place in VING's history," said Macedon. "I thank my mom for all of the sacrifices she has had made, which has allowed me to stand before you as VING's first female CW4 Warrant Officer."

Macedon displayed gratitude from the support, mentorship, encouragement and motivation provided to her throughout her military career. "Lead. Follow. Get Out," said Macedon. "All of us must be leaders, and as leaders we help to mold and mentor other leaders."

Macedon enlisted in the Virgin Islands National Guard on July 10, 1995. She served in various units such as the Signal Support Activity and the 651st Ground Support Maintenance Company. Aspiring to advance in her military career, she attended Warrant Officer Candidate School at Ft. Rucker, Alabama where she soon commissioned as Warrant Officer One, Nov. 4, 2004.

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