Dear Supporters of the South Carolina Military Department:

It is an honor to present the South Carolina Military Department’s fiscal year 2023 annual magazine highlighting the accomplishments of the Soldiers, Airmen, state and federal employees, volunteers, and family members that contribute to the success of our great organization.

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge the Soldiers and Airmen of the South Carolina National Guard. Your selflessness and courage in protecting our state and nation is truly commendable and something of which you should be immensely proud. Whether you are serving on missions or supporting operations behind the scenes, your contributions are invaluable. You exemplify the highest ideals of service and sacrifice, and it is because of you that our organization remains strong and ready to face any challenge.

To the state and federal employees who work tirelessly to ensure the smooth functioning of our operations, I want to extend my deepest appreciation. Your expertise, professionalism, and dedication to duty are instrumental in providing the necessary support and resources to our military personnel. Your behind-the-scenes efforts often go unnoticed but know they are crucial to our success.

Volunteers play a vital role in our organization, and I want to express my sincere gratitude to all those who selflessly give their time and energy. Your contributions, whether it is assisting with family support programs, organizing events, or providing mentorship, have a profound impact on the well-being of our Soldiers, Airmen, and their families. Your generosity and kindness and tireless efforts make a profound impact on their lives and directly contributes to the cohesion of our military community.

Lastly, I want to acknowledge the families of our military personnel. Your unwavering support, understanding, and sacrifices are the bedrock of our organization. You endure the challenges of long deployments, frequent relocations, and the stress that comes with having a loved one in uniform. Your strength and resilience are truly commendable, and we are grateful for the sacrifices you make on a daily basis.

Together, we form a close-knit community that supports, uplifts, and protects one another. Your dedication to our organization and to the principles we stand for is truly inspiring, and it is because of you that we can proudly serve our great nation.

In conclusion, I want to express my deepest gratitude to all the supporters of the South Carolina Military Department. Your contributions, whether big or small, are the key to our continuing success. It is your unwavering support that allows us to fulfill our mission and protect the freedoms we hold dear. Thank you for everything you do, and may we continue to strive for excellence and make a positive impact in the lives of those we serve.

Sincerely,

R. Van McCarty
Major General, SCNG
The Adjutant General
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Gov. McMaster serves as the 117th Governor of South Carolina beginning January 2017. The Governor by law is the Commander in Chief for the South Carolina National Guard.

Maj. Gen. McCarty serves as the 29th adjutant general for South Carolina, and head of the South Carolina Military Department. He administers the affairs of the South Carolina Army and Air National Guard, the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, the State Guard, and the Youth ChalleNGe and Job ChalleNGe programs, South Carolina Military Museum, and STARBASE.

Maj. Gen. Jones serves as deputy adjutant general and is responsible for monitoring the state’s readiness. In addition, he supervises the administrative activities and daily operations of the South Carolina Military Department.

Brig. Gen. Jenkins serves as the assistant adjutant general for Army National Guard and dual-status commander during military support to civilian authorities missions.

Brig. Gen. Stilwell serves as the director of the joint staff, overseeing and directing the administration of all South Carolina National Guard joint staff programs supporting South Carolina domestic response and homeland defense contingency operations.

Brig. Gen. Bowers serves as the assistant adjutant general for the Air National Guard and oversees operations on matters pertaining to the more than 1,300 Airmen in the South Carolina Air National Guard.
Brig. Gen. Rose serves as the chief of staff for the South Carolina Air National Guard. He supervises the preparation of plans, policies, and programs for the Air National Guard units assigned to the state, as well as advises and assists the adjutant general in their execution.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Evans serves as the personal advisor to the adjutant general for South Carolina for all warrant officer related issues and career management for warrant officers in the South Carolina National Guard.

Chief Master Sgt. Caldwell serves as the senior enlisted leader for the South Carolina National Guard and serves as the advisor to the adjutant general and other key leaders on matters of health and welfare of the state’s enlisted service members.

Col. Heaton serves as the Chief of Staff for the Army National Guard and manages the administration, coordination, planning, development, execution and supervision of all ARNG programs and personnel for the Adjutant General (TAG).

Command Sgt. Maj. Kyzer serves as the 13th South Carolina Army National Guard state command sergeant major for the Army National Guard and is the advisor to the assistant adjutant general-Army, the South Carolina National Guard command senior enlisted leader, and other key leaders on matters of health and welfare of more than 9,300 Soldiers assigned to the South Carolina Army National Guard.

Chief Master Sergeant Carr serves as the 14th South Carolina Air National Guard chief master sergeant for the Air National Guard. He represents the highest level of enlisted leadership and is the principal enlisted advisor to the adjutant general and assistant adjutant general-Air, and other key leaders on matters of health and welfare of more than 1,400 enlisted members of the South Carolina Air National Guard.
MISSION
To support and defend our fellow citizens, our State, and our Nation.

VISION
To set the standard for strength, innovation, and resilience; an exceptional team of teams ready to win in increasingly complex environments.
STRATEGIC GOALS

Promote a cohesive, disciplined, and resilient organizational culture, where our people are trained, knowledgeable, and mentor each other in a positive, supportive environment; maintain trained and ready forces for the defense of our country and emergency support of our communities by investing in innovative individual and collective training opportunities and leverage current relationships while identifying opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships to maximize future competitiveness.

PEOPLE:
SET THE CONDITIONS
PROMOTE GROWTH
CHANGE THE CLIMATE

READINESS:
BALANCE THE STRUCTURE
MODERNIZE FACILITIES & EQUIPMENT
INNOVATE TRAINING

PARTNERSHIPS:
EVALUATE & OPTIMIZE
IDENTIFY & DEVELOP
Joint Force Headquarters provides command and control, timely, effective, and accurate personnel support to all Soldiers assigned and attached, while simultaneously managing vital training, deployable statistics, logistical readiness, and personnel. The unit is headquartered in Columbia, South Carolina.

Photo by Sgt. Tim Andrews

218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade is a mission tailored force that conducts support area operations, maneuver support operations, and support to consequence management and stability operations in order to assure the mobility, protection, and freedom of action of the supported force. The unit is headquartered in Charleston, South Carolina.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Calhoun

Medical Command plans, programs, provides, and sustains health force protection and medical/dental support to ensure medical readiness, operations, training, mobilization, and demobilization of South Carolina Army National Guard units. The unit is headquartered at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, South Carolina.

Photo by Sgt. Tim Andrews

59th Troop Command controls and supervises Army National Guard units attached to troop command, which include military police, transportation, and water purification. Their mission is to provide trained and equipped units capable of immediate expansion to war strength and available for service in time of war or national emergency. The 59th Troop command is headquartered at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, South Carolina.

Photo by Sgt. Tim Andrews

59th Aviation Troop Command is responsible for the peace time leadership of all South Carolina Army National Guard aviation units and supports wartime mobilizations of these units. The 59th Aviation Troop Command provides command and control for Army aviation missions during military support to civilian authority operations. These operations include, but are not limited to: hurricane support, homeland defense operations, firefighting, and disaster relief. The unit is headquartered at McEntire Joint National Guard Base in Eastover, South Carolina, with an additional aviation support facility in Greenville.

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roby Di Giovine
117th Engineer Brigade plans, integrates, and directs the execution of engineering missions conducted by three mission tailored engineer battalions not organic to maneuver units and augment engineer units organic to corps and division. The brigade provides technical and tactical guidance and command and control to teams, companies, and battalions. The unit is headquartered in Newberry, South Carolina.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Chelsea Weaver

228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade (TTSB) deploys and provides premier secure, reliable, and sustainable communications, as well as cyber support across the full spectrum of Joint and Combined military operations. The unit is headquartered in Spartanburg, South Carolina. The 228th TTSB is one of only two TTSBs in the National Guard.

Photo by 1st Lt. Stephanie Stark

263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC) deploys in the Northern Command Area of Operation and conducts Joint and Combined Theater Air and Missile Defense in support of designated operations. The unit is headquartered in Anderson, South Carolina. The 263rd AAMDC is the only AAMDC in the National Guard.

Photo by First Air Force

678th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade provides command and coordinates the operations of subordinate air defense artillery battalions and other assigned and attached units. The unit is headquartered in Eastover, South Carolina. The 678th ADA Brigade is one of only three ADA brigades in the National Guard.

Photo by Sgt. Alfonso Procopio

218th Regional Training Institute (RTI) provides institutional training based on the collective requirements identified by National Guard Bureau for Army National Guard, U.S. Army Reserve, and active component in support of the Army’s modular force. The RTI also provides coordinating authority, quality assurance, scheduling, and accreditation oversight for functionally aligned units. The RTI provides operational, training, administrative, logistical, and resource management support as specified and approved by the adjutant general. The unit is headquartered at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina.

Photo by Staff Sgt. Brian Calhoun
A formation of twenty-four AH-64E Apache attack helicopters assigned to the 1-151st Aviation Regiment, Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB), 59th Troop Command, South Carolina Army National Guard, performs a battalion formation flight during Operation Guardian Angels (OGA), Columbia, South Carolina, April 2, 2023. The formation took off from McEntire Joint National Guard Base (JNGB), flew over Columbia downtown and Lake Murray, and returned to McEntire JNGB after performing doctrinal rejoins and maneuvers throughout the flight. OGA was part of a larger training exercise, Operation Guardian Spring, involving several South Carolina Army National Guard commands. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roby Di Giovine)

The South Carolina Army National Guard’s (SCARNG) mission is to generate mission-ready units able to fulfill both its Federal and State missions; specifically, its three main competencies are emergency preparedness/homeland defense, quality Soldier and family support systems, and innovative technological application. The SCARNG’s goal is to ensure relevance through the adaptation of its force structure to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Approximately 10 percent of the SCARNG was engaged worldwide in five different countries to include Kuwait, Djibouti, Kosovo, Germany, and Colombia. The SCARNG was also involved in various CONUS-based missions such as support to the 10th Mountain Division’s WARFIGHTER Exercise at Ft. Drum, New York, air defense support to the National Capital Region and the U.S. Army European Command, and operations on the Southwest Border.

FY23 Army National Guard Highlights:

**Oct. 1, 2022** - South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster visited the coastal areas of South Carolina most affected by Hurricane Ian aboard a South Carolina Army National Guard UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter assigned to 59th Aviation Troop Command, SCARNG. The purpose of the flight was to allow Governor McMaster to assess the damage on the coast between the Blue River and North Myrtle Beach, and from Georgetown-Charleston areas. He also met with local authorities and emergency responders.

**Oct. 28, 2022** - U.S. Army AH-64E Apache Attack Helicopter pilots assigned to 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, SCARNG, participated in the Weapons and Tactics Instructor (WTI) course at Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Arizona. The pilots representing the SCARNG, received standardized advanced tactical training during the seven-week training event hosted by Marine Aviation Weapons and Tactics Squadron One.

**Nov. 13, 2022** - U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant...
U.S. Soldiers with the 132nd Military Police Company, 59th Troop Command, South Carolina National Guard, conduct tactical movement with distinguished visitors to provide security escort to Forward Operating Base Palmetto to be briefed at the tactical operations center for “Operation Guardian Spring,” a field exercise involving multiple South Carolina Army National Guard commands and partner agencies in Eastover, South Carolina, March 31, 2023. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Tim Andrews)

general for South Carolina, visited a Republic of Colombia humanitarian assistance/disaster relief (HADR) exercise site in Cartagena, Colombia, as part of Continuing Promise 2022. Continuing Promise 2022 is a joint, multi-national military and civilian effort, which which provide humanitarian assistance to partner nations in the U.S. Southern Command’s area of responsibility by providing medical care to people in need.

Nov. 17, 2022 - U.S. Soldiers and Airmen with the SCARNG, hosted the Joint Southeast Region’s Judge Advocate training conference at the National Advocacy Center in Columbia, South Carolina. The training hosted Soldiers and Airmen from over 13 states and was being conducted November 17-19, 2022. The training will include briefings and panels from Soldiers, Airmen, and Civilian legal advisors assigned to various states in the Southeastern region. In addition to military training, the event also provided all attendees an environment to build comradery and partnership between National Guard Judge Advocates and legal advisors across the Southeastern region.

Dec. 5, 2022 - U.S Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, South Carolina adjutant general, joined Governor Henry McMaster, representatives of the Gold Star Mothers association and families of South Carolina National Guard’s fallen service members in conducting a “Tree for the Fallen” lighting and dedication ceremony at the State House in Columbia, South Carolina. The tree was on display at the state house throughout the holidays as a tribute to all South Carolina’s fallen service members.

Dec. 08, 2022 - U.S. Army Soldiers and first responders-rescuers with the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) conducted aerial-rescue training at the South Carolina Fire Academy, Columbia, South Carolina. The event included a variety of training scenarios emphasizing survivor extractions in an urban environment. In addition, aircrews and rescuers performed refresher and proficiency training for the ongoing hurricane season.

SC-HART is a collaborative effort between the South Carolina Army National Guard and State Urban Search and Rescue Task Force (SC-TF1) under the direction of S.C. LLR, Office of the State Fire

**Feb. 7, 2023** - The 2-151st Security and Support Aviation Battalion, SCARNG, received the new UH-72 Bravo Lakota helicopter at Army Aviation Support Facility Two, Greenville, South Carolina. Flown from Huntsville, Alabama the newest edition of rotary wing aircraft for the South Carolina National Guard Army Aviation replaced the UH-72 Alpha models, and the South Carolina National Guard was one of nine states fielded two of the new UH-72 Bravo models. This upgraded aircraft equipped with enhanced engines, transmission, and avionics will be an important asset, specifically for search and rescue missions with the South Carolina Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART), providing a faster response time to emergencies with increased space to rescue and transport more individuals.

**Feb. 9, 2023** - The 218th Regional Training Institute (RTI), South Carolina National Guard, and senior non-commissioned officers (NCOs) from Colombia, toured the obstacle course, and watched participants of the SCARNG’s Best Warrior Competition as part of a State Partnership Leader Engagement, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. Colombia has been the state partner with South Carolina for the past 10 years. The National Guard has forged enduring partnerships through the State Partnership Program (SPP) for nearly 30 years, while helping to build U.S. and partner capacity to meet 21st century security challenges.

**Mar. 30, 2023** - U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers assigned with the South Carolina National Guard, conducted “Operation Guardian Spring”, an ongoing field exercise involving multiple SCARNG commands and partner agencies, the exercise took place at different locations in South Carolina. Operation Guardian Spring challenged the participating units with tasks and training scenarios supporting the deployment and the conduction of Foreign Humanitarian Assistance (FHA) operations. During the training, the SCARNG units from army aviation, military police, infantry, transportation, engineers, and maintenance operated jointly, replicating the organizational and operational structure of a typical
FHA operation.

Apr. 2, 2023 - A formation of twenty-four AH-64E Apache attack helicopters assigned to the 1-151st Aviation Regiment, Attack Reconnaissance Battalion (ARB), performed a battalion formation flight during Operation Guardian Angels (OGA), in Columbia, South Carolina. The formation took off from McEntire Joint National Guard Base (JNGB), flew over Columbia downtown and Lake Murray, and returned to McEntire JNGB after performing doctrinal rejoins and maneuvers throughout the flight. OGA was part of a larger training exercise, Operation Guardian Spring, involving several South Carolina Army National Guard commands. OGA’s primary objective was to test multi-ship operations for crews, maintainers, and flight operations personnel; moreover, the training presented an opportunity for the 1-151st ARB to test its ability to maintain effective command and control of a large formation and verify the operational capabilities of aircraft and crews, in the context of a battalion-level mission.

May 5, 2023 - The South Carolina National Guard conducted a Retired Senior Leader Outreach conference, at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina. This was the first conference of its type where former leaders of the South Carolina Army and Air National Guard gathered to discuss the current state and future actions and responsibilities of the Guard. Events, activities and discussion topics included the current status of the South Carolina Army and Air Guard, strategic planning, recruiting, and other topics.

May 8, 2023 - The South Carolina Army and Air National Guard work together to conducted a medical evacuation (medevac) exercise called Operation Palmetto Bluff, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. The training exercise simulated a deployed environment where patients were transported by air, decontaminated, triaged, and either treated or transported by air to a higher echelon of care. In addition to the soldiers exercise, also simulated putting out fires by helicopter bucket into a pond, that picked up water, transported it, and dropped the water on the fire.

June 12, 2023 - U.S. Army Honor
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment, South Carolina Army National Guard, currently assigned to the 2-116th Infantry Battalion Combat Team, depart Fort Bliss, Texas, Oct. 1, 2022, for their deployment to Kuwait. The 1-118th Infantry Battalion trained for weeks at Fort Bliss in preparation for their deployment in support of Operation Spartan Shield. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Kimberly D. Calkins)

Guard transferred the remains of Spc. Jayson R. Haven, of Aiken, South Carolina, during a dignified transfer at Charlotte Douglas International Airport. Spc. Haven was then escorted by the Patriot Guard Riders from Charlotte to Powers Funeral Home in Lugoff, South Carolina where he was received by family, friends, veterans, and community members.

Aug. 10, 2023 - South Carolina National Guard leaders participated in a emergency management training event at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD), Columbia, South Carolina. The training was focused on administrative and logistic aspects of state active duty (SAD) in order to streamline the SAD activation process of National Guard personnel and units during a state emergency. SCEMD Director of Procurement, Ms. Ginny Reedy, led the training by discussing critical logistic areas specific to activated assets on SAD status like food, fuel, equipment, administrative forms, emphasized the need for timely planning to offset the challenges presented by the unpredictability of natural and manmade disasters.

Aug. 21-25 - U.S. Army AH-64E Apache attack helicopters, crews, and support personnel assigned to the 1st-151st Aviation Regiment, 59th Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, participated in a live-fire training exercise at Dugway Proving Grounds, Utah. While working with Joint Terminal Attack Controllers from U.S. Air Force Special Operations Command, the crews performed a variety of AGM-114 Hellfire live-fire tasks and gunnery iterations.
The South Carolina Air National Guard (SCANG) trains and operates out of the 2,400+ acre McEntire Joint National Guard Base (JNGB) in Eastover, SC which has been the home of the SCANG since its founding in 1946.

The 169th Fighter Wing is the SCANG’s primary formation. The 169th Fighter Wing is the U.S. Air Force’s premier fighter wing and provides combatant commanders with world-class combat capability to meet the nation’s needs for contingency and general war requirements. During 2022-2023 the SCANG completed resurfacing of the McEntire JNGB runway. During the resurfacing project, the 169th Fighter Wing conducted all aircraft operations from the Columbia Metropolitan Airport. The SCANG is currently executing $46M in construction projects on McEntire JNGB with an additional $43M in projects in the contracting process. Over the next 10 years plans include over $170M in upgrades to McEntire JNGB facilities.

This year the Wing operated from McEntire JNGB to support a specialized air defense mission that required activation of additional personnel. The Wing continues to support South Carolina’s state partner, the Republic of Colombia, with interactions in Colombia and supporting operations in the U.S. SCANG personnel deployed across the pacific theater of operations in support of two multi-national exercises. The Wing hosted high school Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps (JROTC) teams from around the state for the “Top Gun” drill meet competition which welcomed over 300 cadets to McEntire JNGB.

The Wing’s Federal mission is accomplished by employing conventional munitions in the Destruction/Suppression of Enemy Air Defenses (DEAD/SEAD).

The 169th Fighter Wing provides continual support of the Aerospace Control Alert Mission, defending east coast air space in support of North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD), with Airmen and aircraft executing the Aerospace Control Alert mission, 24-hours a day, 365-days a year.

FY23 Air National Guard Highlights:

Nov. 5, 2022 - U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Jeffrey Orr,
component maintenance flight chief assigned to the 169th Maintenance Squadron, celebrated by fellow members of the SCANG, family and friends during his promotion ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina. Lt. Col. Shawn Daley, 169th Maintenance Squadron commander, was the presiding officer.

Dec. 11, 2022 - The 169th Mission Support Group conducted a change of command ceremony, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, in which out-going commander, U.S. Air Force Col. Timothy Dotson relinquishes his command to Col. Walter Hummel. U.S. Air Force Col. Quaid Quadri, 169th Fighter Wing commander, officiates the passing of the unit colors to signify to the Airmen of the squadron the significance of this formal event.

Jan. 21, 2023 - The 169th Fighter Wing sent 12 F-16s and 220 operations and maintenance personnel to Nellis AFB, Nevada for the annual Red Flag exercise. Red Flag is a large force air combat training exercise centered on readiness and interoperability between joint and allied forces.

Jan. 21, 2023 - More than 25 169th Force Support Squadron personnel and an additional 25 169th Civil Engineer Squadron personnel traveled to Dobbins AFB and Tyndall AFB for the annual Silver Flag exercise. Silver Flag is a 10-day exercise to train and prepare Airmen across multiple career fields for real-world scenarios they may encounter on deployment. The training focuses on hands-on experience with contingency tools and equipment not usually used or obtainable at their home station.

Feb. 4, 2023 - F-16 fighter jets from the SCANG’s 169th Fighter Wing began their move back to McEntire Joint National Guard Base. After temporarily operating from Columbia Metropolitan Airport in West Columbia, South Carolina, due to major runway renovations at McEntire JNGB. The project began in April 2022.

Feb. 27, 2023 - Daughters of the American Revolution and the Sons of the American Revolution invited U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Sean Renbarger, the 169th Operations Support Squadron commander at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, to speak during a memorial
service in honor of Gen. Francis Marion at the tomb location in Pineville, S.C.. The 169th Fighter Wing proudly honors its namesake for being known as the “Swamp Fox”. Fellow South Carolinians gathered at the historic site to honor the 228th year since the death of the American Revolution War hero. Gen. Marion was nicknamed the “Swamp Fox” by his adversaries for his ability to surprise and harass British forces during America’s fight for independence. The memorial service was conducted by Gen. Marion’s Brigade with color guard services rendered by the Washington Light Infantry.

**March 2, 2023** - U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 169th Civil Engineer Squadron, South Carolina Air National Guard, renovated structures and land at the Wateree Recreation Area, Camden, South Carolina, in cooperation with Shaw Air Force Base’s 20th Force Support Squadron. The Airmen gained experience and made improvements to the recreational area used for authorized DoD customers.

**March 17, 2023** - U.S. Air Force F-35 Lightning II fighter jets from the 388th Fighter Wing joined F-16 Fighting Falcons from the 169th Fighter Wing to conduct a large force employment exercise at McEntire National Guard Base. This special training provides a unique opportunity to practice tactics with dissimilar aircraft across a broad spectrum of mission sets.

**March 28, 2023** - The 169th Security Forces Squadron participated in classroom and hands-on training for combat medical first-aid during Patriot Southwest at Kirtland Air Force Base, New Mexico. Patriot Southwest is a joint training exercise that prepares National Guard Airmen and Soldiers to utilize their military skills and their life-saving capabilities for domestic, natural or man-made events.

**April 4, 2023** - The 169th Fighter Wing supports Operation NOBLE EAGLE mission serviced the continental United States for a nearly three-month home-station deployment and provided 24-hour support, including F-16s, as well as several hundred maintenance and support personnel from all units at McEntire JNGB. The 169th FW
provided robust air-defense capabilities and F-16s enforced Federal Aviation Administration established Temporary Flight Restrictions, or TFRs. A TFR is a regulatory action that temporarily restricts certain aircraft from operating within a defined area.

**May 17, 2023** - Iraq Air Force Lt. Gen. Shihab Jahid Ali, the Iraqi Air Force commander, visited McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina. During his visit he received briefings about the South Carolina Air National Guard and a familiarization flight in an F-16 Fighting Falcon. Lt. Gen. Shihab’s flight showcased total force integration through the partnership between the SCANG and U.S. Air Forces Central. Iraq does not have an Air National Guard or Reserve equivalent and the familiarization flight served as an opportunity to see how these organizations support national defense strategy objectives.

**June 1, 2023** - The 169th Fighter Wing is participated in Exercise Palmetto Pressure at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. Palmetto Pressure is an innovative Phase One type exercise designed to test the wing’s ability to rapidly execute combat airpower for a downrange contingency while simultaneously supporting a homeland defense mission.

**June 12, 2023** - 169th Medical Group Airmen deployed to support Operation Healthy Delta, a Innovative Readiness Training Program at Sikeston, Missouri. The DoD sponsored program is designed to build relationships with local communities by providing key medical and dental services while simultaneously leveraging the strength of joint forces.

**June 21, 2023** - The SCANG hosts its annual STARBASE Swamp Fox summer camp at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina. STARBASE is an innovative DoD program that provides science, technology, engineering and math instruction in a fun learning environment.

**July 22, 2023** - 17 engineers from the 169th Civil Engineer Squadron went TDY to Ramstein Air Base, Germany for the Silver Flag qualification course. The participating civil engineers were tasked with deployment in the AFFORGEN cycle and were qualified on required wartime tasks.
The mission qualification course tested the Airmen’s ability to build a bare base, respond to base attacks and rapidly recover airfields all while living in a simulated deployed environment for the week.

**Aug. 11, 2023** - The 169th Operations Support Squadron conducted a change of command ceremony, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, in which out-going commander, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Sean Renbarger relinquished his command to Lt. Col. Jacob Scott. Col. Shaun Bowes, 169th Operations Group commander, officiated the passing of the unit colors to signify to the Airmen of the squadron the importance of this formal event.

**Aug. 12, 2023** - U.S. Air Force Col. Quaid Quadri, the special assistant to the South Carolina assistant adjutant general – air, was promoted to the rank of brigadier general during a ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. The ceremony was presided by Maj. Gen. David Meyer, assistant deputy chief of staff of operations assigned to Headquarters, U.S. Air Force.

**Aug. 24, 2023** - U.S. Air Force Airmen assigned to the 169th Security Forces Squadron fired the M240B machine gun to qualify for heavy weapons at Poinsett Range, Sumter, South Carolina. Security forces defenders with the South Carolina Air National Guard utilize heavy weapons training to equip Airmen with lethal and non-lethal capabilities to engage and control targets during deployments.

**Sept. 9, 2023** - U.S. Airmen with the 169th Fighter Wing participated in the 9th annual Foxtrot Warrior Run at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. The event raised $3,000 for the Diamond Council’s Warm Heart Fund, which can be used to help Swamp Fox Airmen in times of need.

**Sept. 10, 2023** - Family and friends gather to celebrated U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Quaid Quadri’s last flight as an F-16 Fighting Falcon pilot, assigned to the 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina. Quadri was elected as the commander, 378th Air Expeditionary Wing.
The South Carolina Military Department is committed to providing these specialized capabilities for homeland support:

**AVIATION**

Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Roby Di Giovine

**MISSION COMMAND & CONTROL**

Courtesy Photo

**ENGINEERING**

Photo by Sgt. Tim Andrews

**SECURITY**

Photo by Sgt. Tim Andrews

**LOGISTICS**

Photo by Airman 1st Class Danielle Dawson

**CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, NUCLEAR & EXPLOSIVES (CBRNE)**

Photo by Sgt. N.W. Huertas
SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD

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Photo by Airman 1st Class Danielle Dawson
Photo by 2nd Lt. Jorge Intriago
Photo by Sgt. Tim Andrews
Photo by Spc. Turner Horton

Courtesy Photo
Courtesy Photo
SCEMD’s VISION
To be an accomplished and innovative leader in emergency management that is ready, relevant, resilient, and responsive.

SCEMD’s MISSION
The South Carolina Emergency Management Division leads the state emergency management program by supporting local authorities to minimize the loss of life and property from all-hazard events.

The South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) leads the statewide emergency management program. As part of the South Carolina Military Department, SCEMD serves as the primary coordinating agency for all large-scale disaster preparedness, response and recovery operations in the Palmetto State.
South Carolina Emergency Management Division. SCEMD serves as the State Coordinating entity for response and recovery activities while preparing for the next emergency or disaster. Work continued to assist and process eligible reimbursements under the Stafford Act in support of on-going recovery operations from the 2015 Severe Flood, 2016 Hurricane Matthew, 2017 Hurricane Irma, 2018 Hurricane Florence, 2019 Hurricane Dorian, 2020 February Severe Weather and April Tornadoes, the 2020-2021 COVID Pandemic, and 2022 Hurricane Ian.

Tropical Storm/Hurricane Response
The State Emergency Response Team (SERT) responded to two tropical events in 2022 - Hurricane Ian and Tropical Storm Nichole. Hurricane Ian formed on Sept. 23, 2022 and after striking Florida as a Category 4 hurricane, made a second landfall just south of Georgetown on Sept. 30, 2022 as a Category 1 hurricane. In response, the State Emergency Operation Center (SEOC) fully activated with more than 100 personnel. After damage assessments were conducted, 36 counties were granted a Federal Disaster Declaration for Emergency Protective Measures, while eight counties received a Public Assistance (PA) declaration for additional categories of Federal support. Also, three counties received an Individual Assistance (IA) declaration to support homeowners and renters in the impacted areas. SCEMD Logistics coordinated 45 requests for resource support from local and State organizations. Tropical Storm Nichole came ashore in Florida on 9 November 2022 as a Category 1 hurricane and was quickly downgraded to a tropical storm and, later, to a tropical depression. The SEOC partially activated to track the remnants and possible effects of the storm as it passed through the upper part of the State.

COVID
SCEMD continues to coordinate with eligible applicants to administer FEMA’s Public Assistance program with cost estimates for emergency protective measures currently exceeding $916M. Also, SCEMD is able to provide support for potential PPE supply shortages with at least a 60-day stockpile capability. A five-year contract is in place until October 2025 for the warehousing, material handling, transportation and response services.

Additional FY 22-23 SCEMD Highlights:
Monitored tropical cyclone activity to include 14 named storms in the Atlantic Basin during the 2022 Hurricane Season, and provided updates to the State Leadership, counties and State Agencies.

Conducted planning workshops with Federal, State, local, tribal, and non-governmental agencies to enhance planning and support for the SC Emergency Operations Plan and updated 9 other comprehensive plans. Along with partner State agencies, affected counties and the State Emergency Response Teams (SERT) coordinated and conducted FEMA evaluated Radiological Emergency Preparedness exercises with V.C. Summer Nuclear Station, Robinson Nuclear Plant and Catawba Nuclear Station. Coordinated and presented 166 training events for more than 2,680 personnel.

Developed, coordinated and/or participated in 136 exercises involving more than 2,800 participants. Coordinated the State’s participation in the SC Earthquake Awareness Week and the “Great Southeast Shakeout” exercise which included 365,360 registered participants and an aggressive social media campaign focused on earthquake awareness.
Service members’ children and volunteers participate in recreational activities during a South Carolina National Guard child and youth camp, Camp Bob Cooper, Summerton, South Carolina, July 29 - Aug 3, 2023. The youth camp is organized by the South Carolina National Guard Service Member and Family Care Directorate and is open to all children of South Carolina National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. (U.S. Army National Guard Courtesy Photo)

Through the efforts of the Service Member and Family Care (SMFC) program, the organization continued to posture, promote and provide regionally accessible programs that support comprehensive fitness dimensions and employment to reduce stressors for service members and their, thus enabling them to thrive personally and professionally. These programs include:

**Employment Services Outreach.**
The team placed a total of 252 service members, veterans, and family members across the state. The unemployment rate of our service members in the South Carolina National Guard continues to be less than 2 percent. Additionally, by working with our network of over 1,700 business and community partners, we were successful in reducing the unemployment rate of our veteran population by 2.7 percent from fiscal year 2023, ending with a 3.1 percent unemployment rate this fiscal year.

**Resilience, Risk Reduction, and Suicide Prevention (R3SP).**
Program had a 87 percent fill rate for Master Resilience Trainees (MRT) with a fully qualified MRT placed in 51 out of 58 reportable units statewide. The State remains in the top 10 in the nation for MRT fills. This year, 15 Soldiers went to MRT School, and R3SP hosted one Resilient Leader (RTA) Course certifying 15 Soldiers as Resilience Training Assistants.

**Sexual Assault Prevention and Response (SAPR).**
In the SAPR program, credentialed eight new Victim Advocates and re-credentialed 25 Victim Advocates. The SAPR program hosted two refresher trainings and specialized training events, which allowed the VA to earn the required Continuing Education Units for credentialing. The SAPR Office currently has five Soldiers scheduled to attend the 80-hr SHARP Foundation Course. For FY23, the Victim Advocate manning ratio for the State was 84%.

**Suicide Prevention Program (SPP).**
The Suicide Prevention Program (SPP) remains in the top five in the nation for Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training for the 7th straight year. Due to the work with its community partners, the SPP piloted the SC START program in FY21. SC START is an on-line training tool for Service Members, their families and community partners demonstrating how to start a conversation about suicide prevention and how to seek out resources. Of the 1,211 Users enrolled to begin the START training, 806 Users have completed the training. SC START is in its 5th year as a Pilot Program for the NGB Incubator Program. The SPP has become the “go to” organization for best practices related to suicide prevention in the National Guard. As of 2023, SCNG is the only US Military organization that employs the full continuum of care for Living Works Suicide Prevention training along with the Army’s ACE Suicide Prevention efforts. The SPP teamed up with the Substance Abuse Program, the SAPR Program, and Behavioral Health to conduct pre-deployment wellness and mental health training.

**Substance Abuse Program (SAP).**
Substance Abuse Program provides case management, risk mitigation, and targeted prevention training for substance use and high-risk areas identified by the Unit Risk Inventories (URI). SC’s SAP is ranked among the top in the nation for URIs completed and Soldiers trained with 95 URIs completed and 124 URIs scheduled. In FY 21 the SAP piloted the Army National Guard’s Commander’s Risk Reduction Toolbox. The
SAP Team successfully case managed over 50 new referrals which included 24 currently in treatment, 7 rehabilitation completions, and 20 discharges. The SAP is currently working with Behavioral Health towards the ability to conduct in-house substance use assessments at no cost to the Service Member. This allows the SAP to accurately address the specific stressors leading to substance use, make relevant referrals, and increase the number of successful completions which will improve retention and reduce high risk behaviors. The Program successfully advocated for a Soldier to receive inpatient care through Fort Eisenhower, Georgia, which opened an additional inpatient care resource, while reaching out to other facilities to place Soldiers with the right programs for successful rehabilitations.

**Behavioral Health Program.**
The Behavioral Health Program provides counseling, assessment and referrals in supporting the mental health needs of SCNG Service Members, families, and veterans/retirees. Behavioral Health Specialists provide assessments, counseling, crisis management, and case management for Service Members and their families who are experiencing life stressors or psychological health challenges. During the past year, the Behavioral Health Program reached over 2,092 Service Members, family members, and retirees. This total included 9,385 new staff consultations, 4,896 follow-up consultations, 843 outside referrals, and 9,018 information and referral consultations. Additionally, Behavioral Health Specialists provided 1,167 counseling/case management sessions and had 21,058 outreach efforts and three Duty to Warn cases.

**Family Programs.**
This office encompasses four programs, Soldier Family Readiness Specialists, Child and Youth Programs, Personal Financial Counselor (PFC) and Military One Source program. Family Programs continues to support Soldiers and Families during deployment cycles including Homecomings, Holiday Cheer, and the distribution of donated items to all units including cookies and masks. Soldier Family Readiness Specialist teams provided successful deployment outreach 10,325 times. They closed 1,022 non-medical cases, providing assistance and support and participated in at least 551 community and unit-based events networking with community and military resources and briefing units, as well as supporting all civil disturbance missions, annual trainings, and deployments. The C&Y Program hosted the 2022 Regional Youth Symposium at Camp Hannon in September with 8 states attending from our region (SC, NC, GA, TN, MS, FL, KY & AL). Additionally, the Program conducted youth and Soldier hunts, fishing events, and virtual support throughout the year. PFC provided budget/financial planning to include money management techniques, credit score improvement, retirement and estate planning, savings and investing, student loan and tuition assistance, consumer awareness, financial planning pre and post deployment and more.

**Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR).**
ESGR developed and promoted supportive work environments for service members in the reserve components through outreach, recognition, conflict resolution, and educational opportunities that increased awareness of applicable laws. ESGR volunteers have influenced 1,790 employers and 4,445 service members serving in South Carolina. 110 employers were nominated for and presented Patriot awards, 10 “Above and Beyond” awards, two “Seven Seals” awards and one Pro Patria award. During the past year, ESGR Ombudsmen mediated four formal cases and handled 26 informal USERRA inquiries. Committee members logged 2,175 volunteer hours.

**Health and Wellness.**
The program provided a no-cost wellness option for Service Members, Retirees, and Family Members. The program focused on Soldiers who failed to meet standards of the Army Physical Fitness Test, the Army Combat Fitness Test, or the Army Body Composition Program. The Program’s services included developing individual and unit fitness programs to improve overall health & wellness, mitigate injuries, and increase readiness. With oversight from a Lead Coach, a team of seven regionally-aligned Health and Wellness Coaches worked to reduce the number of flagged Soldiers by 269. Additionally, the Team conducted 82 Unit Briefings, 532 Group Training Sessions, and 482 Individual Training Sessions. The Team connected with 19 Community Partners and attended 18 Community Meetings. The Health and Wellness Team offered free access to the TrainHero Application which allowed the Team to stay virtually connected with Soldiers, Retirees and Family Members, and provided workouts they could perform on their own. The Team currently has 1,389 Soldiers enrolled in this program and maintains connection with them through visits, social media, email, text, and the TrainHeroic App messaging system. The Team also connected with the Holistic Health and Fitness (H2F) Program which encompasses five pillars: Health & Wellness, Mental Health, Nutrition, Spirituality, and Sleep. The connection resulted in an increase in available Soldiers, a more resilient, ready, and responsible Service Member, and a higher readiness posture for the SCNG.

**Funeral Honor Team.**
During the past year, the SCNG Funeral Honors teams conducted 2,119 missions for Military Funerals. These funerals were in support of Service Members from all branches of the Armed Forces and other Service Components.
SC-HELICOPTER AQUATIC RESCUE TEAM
The South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) operates as a collaborative effort between the State Urban Search and Rescue Task Force (SC-TF1), South Carolina Emergency Management Division, and South Carolina Army National Guard aviation units based at McEntire Joint National Guard Base. Its capabilities include land and water-based hoist operations with military aircrews and civilian rescue technicians. SC-HART responds to requests for helicopter rescue capabilities on a nationwide basis. SC-HART trained to respond to swift water, open water, confined area, urban structure, and mountain condition search, and rescue for both ambulatory and non-ambulatory emergencies. May 29, 2023, SCHART responded to an emergency rescue request from Oconee County and safely extracting one patient from a remote area of the County.

FORESTRY
The SCARNG continues to work closely with the South Carolina Forestry Commission to increase capability and capacity for conducting aerial wildfire fighting operations.

AEROSPACE CONTROL ALERT
The 169th Fighter Wing, SCANG, continually supports the Aerospace Control Alert Mission, defending east coast air space in support of North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD).
During the past year, the SCNG Counterdrug Task Force, in support of local, State, and Federal law enforcement agencies, assisted with seizures of drugs estimated at $40,790,261.20, $4,848,436.28 in currency, and 251 firearms which resulted in civilian law enforcement making 358 arrests. The SC Counterdrug hosted drug law enforcement support classes for approximately 288 law enforcement officers, counterdrug members and coalition members, saving participating agencies approximately $125,400.00. Additionally, the Drug Demand Reduction Outreach program (DDRO) supported 34 events with 61.75 man hours of support. After 12 years of non-funding, the Counterdrug Aviation Program was reinitiated as of May 2023, and conducted 17.6 hours of aerial observation supporting 2 agencies, and 16.5 hours of aerial observation supporting the State Marijuana Eradication Program.
State Partnership Program (SPP) between the Republic of Colombia and South Carolina.

FY 2023 began with a historic, week-long celebration of the 10-year anniversary of South Carolina’s State Partnership Program (SPP) with the Republic of Colombia. The Adjutant General, MG McCarty, and Governor McMaster welcomed Colombia’s Chief of Defense, General Navarro, to Columbia for a series of commemorative engagements. These events included the opening of a special exhibit at the South Carolina Military Museum commemorating the 10th Anniversary recognition at the State House, a reception at the Governor’s Mansion, and visits to several SCNG installations and facilities. Since its inception in 2012, the program has executed more than 150 mutually beneficial exchanges between SCNG members and Colombia’s armed forces to strengthen a wide array of capabilities, processes, systems, techniques, tactics and procedures.

Throughout FY23, the SPP continuously promoted unique opportunities for South Carolinians to collaborate with, learn from, and mentor partners from Colombia. This past year’s 20-plus events included support for the USNS Comfort’s medical mission in Cartagena, the Colombian Army’s observation of the SC Army National Guard’s Best Warrior Competition, the advancement of Women, Peace and Security initiatives, and multiple face-to-face engagements between senior leaders of the SCNG and the Colombian Military. The SPP consistently yields meaningful returns on investment from a readiness standpoint and continuously deepens the security cooperation relationship between the SCNG and the Colombian Military.
U.S. Army Capt. James Smith, commander of the Co. B, 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, talks to a group of JROTC cadets about the AH-64 Apache Attack Helicopter, during a STEM engagement program, June 5 to 8, 2023, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, in Eastover, South Carolina. During the four-day event, cadets were introduced to the mission of the 125th Cyber Protection Battalion, as well as were able to see and interact with a variety of Army and Air Force aircraft. This is the first time this event has taken place, and nearly 800 cadets from more than 60 schools across South Carolina were able to participate. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brad Mincey)

Community Partners.
We are pleased to highlight the exceptional community partnerships and collaborative efforts within the South Carolina Military Department that underscore the significance of teamwork in strengthening our community. These partnerships have enabled us to collectively enhance our capabilities and better serve our state and nation.

June 8, 2023 - U.S. Soldiers and first responder-rescuers with the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) conducted an Honor Flight for fellow first responders Charleston Police Chief Luther Reynolds and Irmo Firefighter James Muller, Charleston, South Carolina. Reynolds was a respected leader in the local community and among first responders.

Aug. 1-4, 2023 - The 43rd Civil Support Team (CST), participated in a biological production course, at the Pine Ridge Armory in West Columbia, South Carolina. Throughout the course, CST Soldiers and Airmen collaborated with local, state and federal agencies, including the South Carolina Law Enforcement Division and FBI as part of their continuous multi-agency partnership and training.

Sept. 29, 2023 - The 43rd Civil Support Team (CST), participated in a multi-agency training exercise at the William Brice Stadium, Columbia, South Carolina. The training was part of a Joint Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and High-yield Explosives Characterization, Exploitation, and Mitigation Course (JCCEM) involving federal and state partner agencies.

These examples demonstrate the South Carolina Military Department’s commitment to building strong and enduring partnerships with our community, law enforcement agencies, first responders, and educational institutions. By working together we ensure that our citizens are well-protected. The South Carolina Military Department is immensely grateful for these collaborative partnerships and the dedication of all involved, which contributes to a safer and more resilient South Carolina.
Future Initiatives.

Multi-jurisdictional capacity building efforts are underway in the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA) to focus resources, infrastructure, and expertise required to establish meaningful partnerships to grow corporate, community, and local, state and federal government relations; build educational and workforce development programs; and advance technology demonstrations. New cyber workforce development programs, research and development, and the translation of research to practice for cyber integrated, emerging technology fields such as advanced manufacturing, advanced materials, and green energy. Collaborative plans are underway to advance each individual institutional goals. The South Carolina National Guard (SCNG) has partnered with State and local officials, the University of South Carolina-Aiken (USC-A), the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), the Savannah River Site (SRS), the Cyber Center of Excellence and the Naval Information Warfare Center (NIWC) to demonstrate the power of partnerships in advancing technologies that have military application. The SCNG, as a community based force, is uniquely suited to embed with academia and industry and is committing $42M in state and federal funds to advance this collaborative environment.

Capitalizing on the “power of proximity,” the SCNG is planning to expand the cybersecurity ecosystem that leverages the missions of Fort Gordon, the Savannah River National Laboratory (SRNL), and the National Guard Cyber complex. The National Guard’s Cyber Readiness Center and Cyber integration Center, built on the USC Aiken campus, will bring the knowledge and skills of government, industry and educational partners to expand South Carolina’s cyber resiliency, defend our nation’s infrastructure, protect our democratic institutions, and educate future generations of Cyber leaders. The Cyber Collaborative will bring together key partnerships to enhance capabilities, strengthen vulnerabilities, and provide state of the art training, research, and education for a robust and sustainable cyber strategy. The Center will cultivate cyber skillsets, establish and promote cyber professional networks, and exposes cutting-edge innovations. This capital investment and mature partnership will provide cyber careerists the opportunity to pursue a civilian career and continue their military service in the National Guard.

The 218th Regional Training Institute (RTI), South Carolina National Guard, held a State Partnership Leader Engagement with senior non-commissioned officers from the Georgia National Guard, their state partner Georgia, and South Carolina state partner of 10 years Colombia, Feb. 6 - 7, 2023, at McCrady Training Center, in Eastover, South Carolina. The purpose of the event was to share knowledge, and information about the non-commissioned officer performance development system. Leaders received an overview of what the 218th RTI has to offer, toured the facilities, met with U.S. Army Maj. Gen Jeff Jones, deputy adjutant general for South Carolina, and discussed ways to continue developing relationships in the future. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. 1st Class Brad Mincey)
The SCARNG leveraged its cybersecurity capabilities through multiple state and federal cybersecurity initiatives. Through collaborative training and exercises, the SCARNG built relationships, trust, and synergies in improving cybersecurity practices and resiliency across South Carolina and with supporting agencies. SCARNG cyber teams provided direct support to two cyber incidents within the state, and support to seven state/local government offices and one military installation.

In FY23, the SCARNG leveraged its cybersecurity capabilities through multiple State and Federal cybersecurity initiatives. Through collaborative training and exercises, the SCARNG built relationships, trust, and synergies in improving cybersecurity practices and resiliency across the State and with Federal agencies. SCARNG hosted six training events designed to provide familiarization and training to the cyber community (Industrial Control Systems (ICS)/Supervisory Control And Data Acquisition (SCADA), Forensics/Malware, Incident Response Handling Baseline, SANS Holiday Hack Challenge, Security Onion, and Network Monitoring).

The South Carolina Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (SC CIC) Program partners determined that training was valuable, but the ability to rapidly train and qualify cyber personnel is needed in order to effectively support incident response missions around the State for emerging threats. In conjunction with the University of SC Aiken, the SCNG is building the Cyber Integration Center in Aiken, SC. This will include Cyber and Electromagnetic Activities (CEMA), ES (Electronic Security), and EW (Electronic Warfare) ranges at the Savannah River Site.

The 125th Cyber Protection Battalion mobilized 33 Soldiers to Fort Eisenhower, Georgia, and 46 Soldiers to Ft. Meade, MD in support of Army Cyber Command (ARCYBER). SCNG Soldiers at Fort Meade are the lead element of Task Force Echo which consists of Soldiers from 10 states and the Army Reserve. SCNG Soldiers at Fort Eisenhower were mobilized as the 145th Cyber Warfare Company and provide direct support to JFHQ-Central Army’s operational requirements.
The South Carolina State Guard (SCSG)
The South Carolina State Guard is an all-volunteer state military force, which provides support to civil authorities during times of disaster or other emergencies. In addition to general support personnel, the assets the SCSG provided included land, water, and equestrian search and rescue teams, law enforcement augmentation teams, medical support teams, civil engineering teams, and Judge Advocate General (JAG) teams.

During FY 22-23, the SC State Guard provided Cybersecurity training both in-state and one out-of-state location (Delaware) in May 2023 in response to a request by the Delaware Air National Guard. The SCSG also conducted 16 Honor Guard missions across the State at locations including Fort Jackson, Murrells Inlet, Varnville, Anderson, Beaufort, Manning, and North Charleston. One out-of-state request for Honor Guard was conducted at Calabash, NC. In June 2023, the SCSG conducted a training exercise at North Field in North, SC. The training scenario included responding to hurricane/tornado damage and damage resulting from a subsequent earthquake, responding to a mass casualty incident, and conducting coordination with local authorities.

Joint Services Detachment.
The Joint Services Detachment (JSD) is a component of the South Carolina Military Department as State Defense Force unit in the organized militia of South Carolina. It provides specialized professional support to the Department. The Detachment consists of volunteers from across the State, who are legal, medical, governmental, business, cyber, and law enforcement executives appointed by the Governor and the Adjutant General of South Carolina in developing and reviewing policy. Since 1996 the JSD has supported the Youth ChalleNGe Academy (YCA) Program and the follow-on JOB ChalleNGe Program, which is funded by South Carolina. The JSD makes available subject matter experts in business, government, and the military assist Cadets in gaining valuable life and marketable job skills. The Detachment also supports the South Carolina Military Museum. JSD Officers participate in the military outreach to schools through the Patriotism-An American Tradition (PAAT) Speakers’ Program and as speakers for the SCMD. In support, JSD members participate in Memorial Day and Veterans’ Day activities. The unit is organized as a Joint Staff that includes a Civil Affairs Operations Section (J-9) and Cybersecurity Section (J-6) this allows the unit to assist in the long-term recovery operations phase of Emergency Management from natural or man-made disasters. As part of this outreach, the JSD embedded two J-9 members in Kershaw County Emergency Management Services as well as attending Orangeburg County Emergency Services meeting hosted by Director Staley. During the challenge of the COVID pandemic, the JSD assisted numerous small towns in the State and civilian entities in preparing Continuity of Operations (COOP) plans and training. The Joint Services Detachment continues to work with its other partners in the South Carolina Military Department, the National Guard, the Emergency Management Department, and the State Guard as it seeks to increase its value-added contributions to the State of South Carolina.
STARBASE Swamp Fox
STARBASE Swamp Fox, located at McEntire Joint National Guard Base (JNGB) in Eastover, SC, is a Department of Defense (DoD) sponsored Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) program for 5th grade students. Designed to augment, enhance and reinforce the State’s educational math and science standards, the program uses a child-friendly, hands-on/minds-on approach, and serves as a catalyst for encouraging students in STEM subjects and future career options. Its mission is to raise the interest and improve the knowledge and skills of students (focusing on at-risk youth) by exposing them to an exciting, dynamic, technological environment, and positive role models found in the SC Army and Air National Guard. STARBASE is 100% federally funded and, since its inception in 2003, has provided enrichment educational classes for 19,061 elementary students.

In school year 22-23, the Program continued to experience challenges due to continuing issues resulting from the COVID pandemic, short notice cancelations, and school districts’ shortages of bus drivers. In spite of these challenges, STARBASE Swamp Fox provided in-person instruction to 1,200 students with 15 schools participating from 8 school districts. As a result of these on-going challenges, STARBASE Swamp Fox was re-designated as a “One Class” program for the 2023-2024 School Year.

South Carolina Youth ChalleNGe Academy
The South Carolina Youth ChalleNGe Academy is a community-based, quasi-military structured educational program that operates the Youth Challenge and Job Challenge Programs. The SC Youth ChalleNGe Academy’s mission is to empower and prepare youth to develop personal, academic and career success through education, mentoring and training.

The Youth ChalleNGe Program services youth throughout South Carolina ages 16-18 years old (15 only if turning 16 within the cycle). The Program has two cycles per year (January and July) and can currently accept up to 150 youth per cycle. The Job ChalleNGe Program is a follow-on program for selected Youth ChalleNGe Program graduates to provide hands-on job skills training through trade courses with two cycles per year (January and July/August). Job ChalleNGe currently partners with Midlands Technical College and Southeastern Esthetics School, and is continuing to build additional partnerships.

During FY 22-23, the Youth ChalleNGe Program graduated 100 cadets who earned 53 GEDs. Since its inception in 1998, the Program has graduated 5,111 cadets with 1,907 earning their GED. During the 22-week residential Program, cadets complete at least 40 community service hours and many received various recognitions, trainings, certifications and licenses (i.e., Honor Society, Public Speaking, Servsafe, and Forklift Operation).

During FY 22-23, the Job ChalleNGe Program graduated 35 cadet. Since inception in 2016, the Program has graduated 16 classes with 338 graduates completing college credit hours or skills training in areas such as HVAC, welding, construction, IT, and Medical Administrative Assistance.
South Carolina Military Museum.
During FY22-23, the South Carolina Military Museum continued its mission to preserve the legacy of the Palmetto State’s military history, build community partnerships, expand the facility footprint, and improve the visitor experience. The Museum’s new Curator of Education and Digital Services started in October 2022 and had an immediate impact on the Museum’s medial and education-focused programs. New digital resources included events and updates on a new Museum Education website and downloadable lesson plans from Teacher Pay Teachers. The community outreach through the new on-site and off-site education programs have impacted over 2,500 people. In February 2023, the Museum launched the new “STEM squad Kids Club” which currently has 180 youth members from 27 cities around the State.

In January 2023, the Museum opened a temporary exhibit entitled Skytrails, South Carolina Airfields: Then and Now. The exhibit showcased several loaned items from individuals in the aviation community and was featured in the Columbia Star newspaper. In March 2023, the museum dedicated and renamed Gallery I in honor of long-time donor and friend of the museum, Charles Cauthen. After the installation of new lighting in the galleries, the Museum was featured in trade publications and digital media highlighting the vendor’s work. Throughout the year, the Museum participated in a variety of community events including the Archaeology Society’s Fall Field Day, Blythewood’s Veteran’s Day Celebration, Lugoff’s Mass Paratrooper Drop Anniversary Ceremony, and Fort Jackson’s Army Heritage Day. In December 2022, the Museum partnered with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve and the Blue Knights Law Enforcement Motorcycle Club for the 5th consecutive year as host to the State’s largest “Toys for Tots” charity drive with over 1,000 riders participating in the event. The Museum continued marketing efforts through billboards, television and radio advertisements, and a digital media presence. In FY 23, the Museum’s visitor numbers surpassed 13,500 which is the Museum’s largest recorded attendance to date. During FY22-23 the Museum’s website traffic included over 15,800 unique visitors, and, from April to May 2023, the Museum’s internal Facebook post boosting campaign saw a total of 83,806 impressions. The Museum launched a digital newsletter campaign with over 1,100 subscribers in January 2023 which generated a 44% open rate.

246 Army Band. The “Band of the Palmetto State,” celebrated 84 years of service in 2023. As the premier musical representative of the South Carolina National Guard, this acclaimed organization travels throughout the state presenting a variety of music to enthusiastic audiences. The band is made up of multiple Musical Performance Teams (MPT) in addition to the traditional concert, marching, and ceremonial bands. Among the MPTs are a New Orleans-style group called, “Battery Brass Band,” a brass quintet known as “Spent Brass,” and the “Palmetto Jazz Orchestra,” a traditional jazz big band, to name a few. Led by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Mike Looper, the unit welcomed WO1 Paul Laches back from the Basic Officer Leader Course at the U.S. Army School of Music in August to serve as Bandmaster. The band conducted multiple community outreach events including a five-day music in schools tour which showcased the unit and gave band members the opportunity to work with college and high school students. They also completed a 10-day annual training period with stops in Laurens, Sumter, Newberry, and Lexington, and supported the Fall for Greenville festival in October.
The guiding principles of the S.C. Military Department are to promote a cohesive, disciplined, and resilient organizational culture, where our people are trained, knowledgeable, and mentor each other in a positive, supportive environment; maintain trained and ready forces for the defense of our country and emergency support of our communities by investing in innovative individual and collective training opportunities and world-class facilities; and strengthen and leverage current relationships while identifying opportunities for mutually beneficial partnerships to maximize future competitiveness.

The Agency continued to meet these objectives in FY 22-23, both in terms of overall-mission readiness and service to the citizens of South Carolina. The Agency also continued working toward the achievement of the organization’s strategic goals.

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, South Carolina adjutant general, joins Governor Henry McMaster, representatives of the Gold Star Mothers association and families of South Carolina National Guard’s fallen service members in conducting a “Tree for the Fallen” lighting and dedication ceremony at the State House in Columbia, South Carolina, Dec. 5, 2022. The tree will be on display at the state house throughout the holidays as a tribute to all South Carolina’s fallen service members. (U.S. Army National Guard photo by Sgt. Tim Andrews)
**SOUTH CAROLINA NATIONAL GUARD | CONSTRUCTION AND FACILITIES MANAGEMENT**

**Construction and Facilities Management.**

The Construction and Facilities Maintenance Office (CFMO) oversees 3.5M square feet of buildings, over 16,000 acres of training land and the fire department at McCrady Training Center, with a combined State and Federal budget of over $30 Million. During FY 2022-23, the CFMO completed $1.2M in designs for renovations on the Laurens and Union Readiness Centers with planned construction in FY24. Designs were initiated for complete renovations of the Wellford and Hartsville Readiness Centers at a cost of $1.2M with projected construction in FY25. The CFMO continues to add female restrooms and showers to existing Readiness Centers to meet the requirements of the SCNG. The Agency completed female restroom additions at the Walterboro and Hartsville Readiness Centers at a shared State and Federal cost of $697,000. Designs were completed and projects were awarded and started for the addition of female restrooms at Wellford, Abbeville, and Batesburg Readiness Centers at a shared State and Federal cost of $953,000. The CFMO completed the total replacement of the Hemmingway Readiness Center roof with a shared cost of $900,000. Other large Readiness Center projects executed were the replacement of HVAC equipment at the Newberry Readiness Center and the complete demolition of the McCormick Readiness Center at a shared cost of $480,000. The design to renovate the Olympia Armory (State Guard) was initiated using State funding at a cost of $303,000 and a projected construction cost of $4.2M in FY24. The CFMO executed and managed $3.3M Federally funded designs and construction of four new barracks at Clarks Hill and McCrady Training Sites to support unit readiness training. Other Federally funded projects started or completed were an Army Combat Fitness Test facility, a solar power generating canopy at McCrady Training Center, four latrine renovations in the BOQ facilities at McCrady Training Center, design of additional vehicle bays at the 43rd CST facility, and replacement of all pavements at the Rock Hill Field Maintenance Shop for a total cost of $2.7M. The Agency’s efforts resulted in more efficient and sustainable facility operations and enabled the Agency to provide necessary services to Soldiers and their Families while also supporting the local civilian community. The CFMO continues to manage the future construction of two new Readiness Centers, one on Joint Base Charleston and one in Aiken County co-located with USC-Aiken. Construction of the Joint Base Charleston Readiness Center was shifted from Federal FY22 to begin in FY24, and the design for the Aiken Readiness Center is ongoing with a projected construction date in FY24. Additionally, a Multi-Purpose Machine Gun Range is under design with projected construction in FY24. The CFMO continues to utilize the National Guard Bureau’s (NGB) “Builder” program to assess facilities to identify and project maintenance needs. The CFMO prioritizes sustainability projects for federal funds which will benefit the Agency in potential cost savings and resiliency in energy and water needs. The CFMO continues to request Federal Energy funds from NGB to add back generator power to costal and battalion/brigade headquarters facilities. These projects increase sustainability of facilities and better prepare them to support Defense Support of Civilian Authorities (DSCA) requirements. The SCARNG has a physical presence in 40 of the State’s 46 counties. These locations include 63 Readiness Centers, 9 Field Maintenance Shops, 2 Army Aviation Support Facilities, a Combined Support Maintenance Shop, a Unit Training Equipment Site, a Major Training Center (McCrady) with one sub-training site (Clarks Hill), one Close-In Training Area at the Savannah River Site, the SCNG Headquarters Complex, and the Olympia Armory.
FEDERAL TUITION ASSISTANCE (FTA)
The Tuition Assistance (TA) program provides financial assistance for education programs in support of Soldier’s professional and personal self-development goals. Soldier’s are eligible for up to 16 semester hours per fiscal year (October – September). TA will pay up to $250 per credit hour with a fiscal year maximum of $4,000. TA will assist in paying for an Associate, Bachelor and Master degrees. Soldier’s are limited to 130 credit hours for the Undergraduate degree and 39 semester hours for a Graduate degree. Eligible Soldier’s must request TA through www.armyignited.army.mil. TA requests must be submitted 60 to 7 business days prior to the class start date. For more information, please contact the education office.

G.I. BILL
-Selected Reserve Chapter 1606
-You may be entitled to receive up to 36 months of education benefits.
To qualify, you must meet the following requirements:
- Have a six-year obligation
- Complete your initial active duty training (IADT).
- Meet the requirements to receive a high school diploma or equivalency certificate before completing IADT.
- Remain in good standing while serving in an active Selective Reserve unit.

POST–9/11 GI Bill
-The Post–9/11 GI Bill provides financial support for education and housing to individuals with at least 90 days of aggregate service on or after September 11, 2001.
-The Post–9/11 GI Bill will pay your tuition based upon the highest in-state tuition charged by an educational institution in the state where the educational institution is located.
-The Post–9/11 GI Bill also offers some Service Members the opportunity to transfer their GI Bill to dependents. Service Members interested in transferring benefits can access milConnect.
- Service Member or dependents may apply for benefits at Vets.gov.

G.I. BILL KICKER
Full time students who enlist in jobs with the kicker will receive an additional $350 a month, on top of tuition assistance and the Montgomery G.I. Bill.

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**SCNG Unit Organization**

**117 Engineer Brigade**

**59 TRP CMD**

**263RD AAMDC**

**218 MEB**

**59TH AVN TRP CMD**

**228 SIG BDE**

**SCARNG ELMT JT FCE HQ**

**McCrady TNG SITE**

**169th Fighter Wing**
SOUTH CAROLINA
NATIONAL GUARD STATIONING
EDATE FY24

Maintenance Locations
8 FMS 1 - Greenville
45 FMS 3 - Hemmingway
4 FMS 5 - Rock Hill
44 FMS 6 - Edgefield
42 FMS 6A - Saluda
10 FMS 8 - Union
20 FMS 11 - Hartsville
24 FMS 12 - Darlington
56 FMS 13 - Summerville
59 FMS 14 - Varnville
38 AASF 1 - McEntire
38 CSMS - McEntire
33 UTES - McCrady
8 AASF 2 - Greenville

Training Sites
33 MTC - McCrady Training Center
43 CHTS - Clarks Hill Training Site
0 SRS - Savannah River Site