

## Public Affairs Update August 1-31, 2020



Here is the latest summary of stories and coverage of South Carolina National Guard Soldiers and Airmen supporting the National Guard mission to provide ready units to conduct operations that support and defend our fellow citizens, the Constitution of the United States of America, and South Carolina, whenever and wherever the threat arises or the need exists. The South Carolina National Guard is a premier organization of diverse Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen who are Ready, Relevant, Resilient and Responsible to our communities, state, and nation in time of need, and who are led by competent, capable, caring, and professional leaders and live by the values of loyalty, excellence in all we do, accountability, duty, emphasis on community, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity, and personal courage.

Please share with your Soldiers that they can find the postings for full-time employment opportunities on the South Carolina National Guard website, accessible without a CAC card:

<https://www.scgard.ng.mil/Resources/Employment-Opportunities/>

Also, as we enter an election cycle, please share with your Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian employees guidance on engaging in political activity: <https://www.scgard.ng.mil/Resources/Political-Guidance/>

### **South Carolina National Guard Training, Missions, Current Events**

#### **Thank you message to civilian employers supporting South Carolina National Guard throughout activations, mobilizations**

The South Carolina National Guard has been supporting the COVID-19 response efforts in the state since March. While the Soldiers and Airmen are proud to serve their communities, we understand the strain this can put on their civilian employers. We want to thank those employers who have supported our service members during this activation. When the Soldiers and Airmen know they have a stable job to return to after their service to the state, it greatly reduces stress for them and their Families and allows them to focus on the mission. Thank you for your support.

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zUZMH8NX1-w>

#### **#KnowYourMil - A passion for aviation in the South Carolina National Guard**

This is the story of U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Sirmon with the South Carolina Army National Guard. He talks about his love for aviation and what led him to get to where he is today.

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9KmtTXKb4dM>

#### **Victory over Japan Day with the South Carolina Military Museum**

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with John Freeman, South Carolina Military Museum weapons curator, and Heather McPherson, South Carolina Military Museum curator of history, about a new exhibit that will be opening in the South Carolina Military Museum.

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Uc3Y5L71Tg>

### **South Carolina National Guard hosts virtual BLC**

The South Carolina National Guard hosted a virtual Basic Leadership Course (BLC) at the 218th Regional Training Institute (RTI) at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina in order to train U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers to be non-commissioned officers (NCO), while also following safety guidance for COVID-19.

**Story:** <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/375659/south-carolina-national-guard-hosts-virtual-blc>

### **218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade conducts individual weapons qualification**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, and 111th Signal Company, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina Army National Guard, conduct their individual weapons qualification at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, Aug. 21-22, 2020. The Soldiers qualified on the M4 carbine, M16 rifle, and M9 pistol.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715607505652>

### **316th Fighter Squadron conducts assumption of command ceremony**

The 316th Fighter Squadron, an active association unit assigned to the 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, conducts an assumption of command ceremony, Aug. 20, 2020. U.S. Air Force Col. Mark Massaro, commander of the 495th Fighter Group at Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina, is the presiding officer in which Lt. Col. Gentry Kramer assumes command of the 316th Fighter Squadron.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157715576165667>

### **South Carolina National Guard talks safety**

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with members of the South Carolina National Guard Safety Office about various topics and information to stay safe during hurricane season and back-to-school.

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VeEbGlecgwU>

### **1-118th Infantry Soldiers sharpen reflexive fire skills**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Companies A and C, 1-118th Infantry Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, practice their reflexive fire techniques at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Aug. 17, 2020.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715525862736>

### **4-118th Soldiers return from deployment to Middle East**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 4-118th Infantry Battalion, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team (ABCT), (attached to the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina National Guard), return home Aug. 15, 2020, with South Carolina National Guard leaders greeting them in Columbia, South Carolina, with other Soldiers returning to airports closest to their home of record, after a deployment in support of Operation Inherent Resolve and Operation Spartan Shield. The 4-118th Infantry Battalion deployed to the Middle East after departing South Carolina in August 2019. The return of the Soldiers from the Middle East is conducted in stages due to mission requirements.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715803968183>

### **1-118th Infantry trains with Black Hawk support**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Company A, 1-118th Infantry Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, are transported to McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, Aug. 14, 2020, by UH60 Black Hawk helicopters assigned to Company A, 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, as part of joint training efforts between ground and air units.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715491897752>

### **Army Combat Fitness Test (ACFT) update**

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jeremy Smith, 218th Regional Training Institute master fitness trainer, provides update on the Army Combat Fitness Test, scheduled to be implemented beginning Oct. 1, 2020

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lzjIBnCwCGE>

### **218th Regional Training Institute conducts 12B reclassification course**

The 218th Regional Training Institute, South Carolina National Guard, conducts the 12B combat engineer reclassification course at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina. The class is made up of U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers from multiple states and is being conducted Aug. 8-22, 2020. Throughout the course, the Soldiers learn through classroom instruction and hands-on training covering breaching, mines and firing devices, reacting to explosive hazards, constructing demolitions systems, executing military operations on urbanized terrain training, and more.

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=n0jWT-tpFu8>

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715540302818>

### **Maj. Rick “Guns” Garin celebration of life ceremony**

U.S. Air National Guard Airmen from the 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, along with family and friends held a memorial service, Aug. 8, 2020, to remember U.S. Air Force Maj. Richard 'Guns' Garin, a pilot with the 157th Fighter Squadron. Garin passed away July 28 after a valiant struggle with a sudden, severe medical complication. Garin enlisted in the SCANG in 2002 as a life support technician while attending the University of South Carolina. After graduating in 2006, he was competitively selected for an F-16 fighter pilot position. A veteran of multiple combat tours to the Middle East, Garin dedicated his life to the service of others.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157715418120471>

### **218th Brigade Support Battalion inactivation ceremony**

The South Carolina National Guard conducts a ceremony recognizing the inactivation of the 218th Brigade Support Battalion Aug. 8, 2020 in Columbia, South Carolina.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715409138948>

**Video:** <https://www.facebook.com/SCGuard/videos/358865965104087/?v=358865965104087>

## **South Carolina National Guard talks fitness with Health & Wellness**

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Stephen Moore, South Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters first sergeant, as well as Mr. Darryl Hammond, South Carolina National Guard Health and Wellness Program lead Health and Wellness Coach, about health and fitness, as well as different outlets and programs Soldiers, Airmen, and their Families can access to help them on their fitness journey.

**Video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xRViioFvXhw>

## **Engineers, Firefighters conduct swift water rescue training**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard worked on their swift water certification, Aug. 4-6, 2020 at the U.S. National Whitewater Center in Charlotte, North Carolina, in preparation for the 2020 hurricane season. Members of the 125th Engineer Company and the 264th-268th Engineer Detachment Firefighters learned how to guide rescue boats in swift water, how to rescue people in swift water situations from a boat, and how to find the safest route through a swift water situation.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715374992556>  
<https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715387492702>

## **Lt. Col. Simmons promotion ceremony**

The 59th Aviation Troop Command, South Carolina National Guard, conducted a ceremony Aug. 6, 2020 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina to recognize the promotion of U.S. Army Maj. Antonn Simmons to lieutenant colonel. Simmons serves as the commander of 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 59th Aviation Troop Command, South Carolina National Guard.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715395489418>

## **Region III Best Warrior Competition**

The South Carolina National Guard hosted the Region III Best Warrior Competition Aug. 3-7, 2020 at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina with U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers from Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Tennessee, Mississippi, North Carolina, and South Carolina competing in physical and mental challenges to become the Best Warrior and Non-Commissioned Officer winners for the region. Tasks included a 12-mile and 7.5 mile ruck march, weapons qualification, Army Physical Fitness Test and Army Combat Fitness Test, land navigation, patrol lanes, on-camera interviews, pugil stick competition, and more. The winner of the Best Warrior was U.S. Army Spc. Aydin Chester, Kentucky National Guard and the winner of the Non-Commissioned Officer was U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Mitchell Scofield, Mississippi National Guard.

**Overall video:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jS5Ps0OUtcU>

**Message from CSM Vickery:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjUtjvMZuek>

**Podcast on overall event:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnDD22\\_b\\_Z8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CnDD22_b_Z8)

**Podcast from other state CSMS:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8g88Sxci7Y4&feature=youtu.be>

**Photos: Day 1 -** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715363466633>

**Day 3 -** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715396314543>

**Day 4 -** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715395398946>

**Day 5 -** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715395450981>

**Awards:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715398438367>

### **51st Military Police Battalion conducts battalion-level Best Warrior Competition**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 51st Military Police Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, competed in the battalion-level Best Warrior Competition Aug. 2, 2020 at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina. As part of the competition, Soldiers from the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 132nd Military Police Company, and 133rd Military Police Company conducted the Army Combat Fitness Test, Soldier skills, and an interview board. The winners of the battalion-level competition will compete at the brigade-level competition for the 59th Troop Command.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715449011286>

### **51st Military Police Battalion attends CLS training**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 51st Military Police Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, attend a Combat Lifesaver course at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, Aug. 1-2, 2020, to learn basic emergency care to help stabilize someone who has been injured until they can be treated by trained medical personnel. The training included classroom and hands-on learning.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715358558498>

### **COVID-19 Response Coverage**

#### **South Carolina National Guard supports testing sites**

The South Carolina National Guard supports mobile testing sites throughout the state with setting up, tearing down, directing traffic, and providing information to citizens visiting the test site:

**Aug. 7: Simpsonville -** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715459551892>

#### **South Carolina Air National Guard conducts COVID-19 testing for returning Airmen**

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Tanya Justice, 169th Medical Group medical technician, uses nasopharyngeal swab testing units to provide COVID-19 testing to 169th Fighter Wing Airmen at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, after a required 14-day quarantine period upon returning from an Agile Combat Support deployment in Southwest Asia, Aug. 11, 2020. The South Carolina National Guard remains ready to support the counties, state and local agencies, and first responders with requested resources for as long as needed in support of COVID-19 response efforts in the state.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715459371692>

**Story:**

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/375223/south-carolina-air-national-guard-performs-covid-19-tes-mission-critical-personnel>

## **External Media Coverage:**

### **New Conestee Preserve bridge is a testament to public/private sector cooperation**

An all-important theme we should never forget is that if we all work together we can do great things. In that light we share with you an example of how cooperation among different agencies of government and the private sector created a community asset that will serve generations of Greenville County residents and visitors. On June 23, and in a truly remarkable fashion, the new River Otter Way Bridge, 84 feet long and weighing nearly 10 tons, was airlifted from a nearby staging location by the South Carolina Army National Guard and gently cradled into its new location at Lake Conestee Nature Preserve (LCNP).

### **Greenville News:**

<https://www.greenvilleonline.com/story/opinion/2020/08/30/opinion-new-conestee-preserve-bridge-testament-cooperation-greenville-sc/5634872002/>

## **Priorities of Public Affairs**

Priorities of Public Affairs coverage include real-world crisis events, joint exercises, training, high-visibility community events, deployments and homecomings, newsworthy situations that support current events and South Carolina National Guard support or involvement, special emphasis events that support recognized DoD themes or campaigns, and designated patriotic holidays and events that support the South Carolina community, and the adjutant general's priorities of recruiting and retention, professional military education, individual and collective training, and accountability through effectively leveraging limited resources according to laws, regulations, and policies to maximize individual and unit readiness. The most recent annual report for the SC Military Department can be found here:

<https://www.scguard.ng.mil/Portals/45/Documents/annual%20reports/Annual%20Report%202019.pdf?ver=2019-12-09-120622-060>

Please contact the South Carolina National Guard Public Affairs office for coverage of events that meet the criteria.

For more up-to-date information on the South Carolina National Guard, follow us on social media:

	Army National Guard	Air National Guard
Instagram:	<a href="#">@official_scguard</a>	<a href="#">@scairnationalguard</a>
Twitter:	<a href="#">@SCNationalGuard</a>	<a href="#">@theSCANG</a>
Facebook:	<a href="#">South Carolina National Guard</a>	<a href="#">South Carolina Air National Guard</a>
Flickr:	<a href="#">SC National Guard</a>	<a href="#">S.C. Air National Guard</a>
Youtube:	<a href="#">SCNationalGuard</a>	<a href="#">S.C. Air National Guard</a>
DVIDS:	<a href="#">South Carolina National Guard</a>	<a href="#">169<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing</a>