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 see the attached Political Activities Guidance and distribute to the lowest level. Because rules vary depending on an employee's status, it is extremely important that employees who are engaging in political activity know which rules apply. This guidance applies 24/7/365, not just during elections. For more information: https://www.scguard.ng.mil/Resources/Political-Guidance/

The digital FY2020 Annual Report can be found here: https://www.scguard.ng.mil/Portals/45/Documents/annual%20reports/Annual%20Report%202020.pdf?ver=xZKjG_hQx_wl_Sot2WUB8Q%3d%3d

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

**South Carolina National Guard Soldier selected for All Guard Endurance Team**

A U.S. Army National Guard Soldier with the South Carolina National Guard was recently selected to be a part of the inaugural year for the All Guard Endurance Team. U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Kennith J. Wingard, 218th Regional Training Institute (RTI), 5th Battalion information technology specialist instructor, was one of 62 U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers, and one U.S. Air National Guard Airmen, who competed in the physical challenge. Thirty-four were selected for the team, including Wingard.


**Burying our own: previously unclaimed veterans put to rest at Fort Jackson National Cemetery**

Visit any military cemetery and you will find rows of headstones perfectly aligned and standing straight, like a military formation of Soldiers. These cemeteries serve as sanctums for the living and the dead. Among these Gardens of Stone, nobody questions faith, race, or gender because here, among the ageless, all are equal...But what of those whose remains are left in mortuaries, forgotten, and unclaimed? On Friday, November 6th, at 11:00 a.m. the cremated remains of three previously unclaimed veterans -- U.S. Army veteran Alan C. Bedell, service 1964-1967; U.S. Army veteran Cephus Grate Jr., service 1979-1986; and U.S. Army veteran Ricky D. Willie, service 1978-1982 -- will be put to rest at the Fort Jackson National Cemetery. The service is open to the public.

South Carolina National Guard conducts RAVEN training
The South Carolina National Guard hosted Small Unmanned Aircraft System (SUAS), RAVEN, training for U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard, Oct. 20-30, 2020 at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina. The training is offered to any Military Occupational Specialty that operates the RAVEN. The RAVEN is used for many missions to include assisting emergency responders in natural disasters relief planning and has been used by the South Carolina National Guard during past hurricane response missions to be able to provide first responders with real-time imagery of flooding and assessments of areas impacted by storms.
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=joJKuD5iQHE

Red Ribbon Week with the South Carolina National Guard
On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with Ivey Hatfield, South Carolina National Guard risk reduction coordinator, Ruth Ellis, South Carolina National Guard behavioral health contractor, and her daughter, Macie. They talk about what Red Ribbon Week is and how to get help or information on substance abuse.
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lqcuvoyc434

59th Aviation Troop Command supports special operations paradrop training
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Det. 1 Company B, 238th General Support Aviation Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, support an airborne-training operation with a CH-47F Chinook helicopter in Scotland County, North Carolina, Oct. 23, 2020. The parachute-drop mission serves as a training exercise for South Carolina National Guard aviation members, while providing assistance to other U.S. Army units, both active duty and reserve components.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/721577166222660658

Cybersecurity Awareness Month with the South Carolina National Guard Cyber Battalion
On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Steve Szabo, U.S. Army Sgt. James Murray, and U.S. Army Spc. Jefferson Dill, all with the 135th Cyber Security Company, South Carolina National Guard, about Cyber Awareness Month and what cyber is.
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CmMhSmD210k

Military and civilian police train together
U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Robert Cornacchia with the 132nd Military Police Company, South Carolina National Guard, conducts civil disturbance training with the Kershaw County Sheriff's Department, at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, Oct. 22, 2020. The training was designed to help align Military Police and civilian law enforcement tactics and procedures.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716580473298

Col. Barry Jones retirement
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716575068842
Col. Renita Berry retirement
The South Carolina National Guard conducts a retirement ceremony for U.S. Army Col. Renita Berry Oct. 18, 2020 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, to recognize her more than 34 years of service. Berry served as the Director of Logistics for the South Carolina National Guard.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716545117418

132nd Military Police Company conducts individual weapons qualification
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 132nd Military Police Company, South Carolina National Guard, conduct individual weapons qualification at the range on Fort Jackson, South Carolina, Oct. 17, 2020, in order to maintain proficiency on the weapon systems.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716682017117

South Carolina National Guard Soldiers conduct joint gap crossing training
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 133rd Military Police Company, South Carolina National Guard, conducted joint gap-crossing training with the 174th Mobility Augmentation Company, South Carolina National Guard, Oct. 17, 2020.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716573859867

South Carolina National Guard conducts training event at Clarks Hill Training Site
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers conduct sling load training with UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters from Company A, 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, at Clarks Hill Training Site in Plum Branch, South Carolina, Oct. 17, 2020. Sling load capabilities are a key element of air operations within South Carolina’s disaster-relief plan, and this event provides challenging and realistic training scenarios for ground personnel and aircrews.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716545767657

Company B, 1-118th Infantry Battalion conducts awards ceremony
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716521895948
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716521895948

Sgt. 1st Class Jason Conyers retirement ceremony
The 1-118th Infantry Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, honored U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jason Conyers, 1-118th Infantry Battalion operations noncommissioned officer, during a retirement ceremony held at the Mount Pleasant readiness center in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, Oct. 17, 2020. Conyers will retire from the South Carolina National Guard with 22 years of service.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716515628231

Palmetto Military Academy graduation ceremony
The South Carolina National Guard conducted a ceremony for the Palmetto Military Academy Officer Candidate School at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, Oct. 17, 2020 to recognize the completion of the program for Class 71 and their commissioning into the South Carolina National Guard.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716513756883
1-118th Infantry Battalion conducts change of responsibility ceremony
The 1-118th Infantry Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, honored U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Edward A. Guest, Jr., 1-118th Infantry Battalion outgoing command sergeant major, and welcomed U.S. Army 1st Sgt. (promotable) Gregory T. Billings, during the 1-118th Infantry Battalion change of responsibility held at the Mount Pleasant readiness center in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, Oct. 17, 2020. Guest relinquished his command to Billings after a successful five-year post as command sergeant major.

Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716508775598

Victory over Japan Day with the South Carolina Military Museum, Part 2
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 the new exhibit displaying artifacts and history about Victory over Japan Day.

Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aN0Q8bdIJIE
Part 1: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4Uc3Y5L71Tg

Apache helicopter transport
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard worked with U.S. Air National Guard Airmen with the 167th Airlift Wing, West Virginia Air National Guard, Oct. 13, 2020, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina to load AH-64 Apache helicopters on to C-17 Globemaster III cargo aircraft to transport the helicopters to Texas for a live-fire training exercise.

Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716449059603
Video: https://www.dvidshub.net/video/769585/apache-helicopters-transported-live-fire-exercise

4-118th Infantry Battalion Soldiers return from deployment
Some 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, returned home Oct. 8, 2020, with South Carolina National Guard leaders greeting them in Columbia, South Carolina, 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.

Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716315165371

Col. Jeffrey Smith promotion ceremony

Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157716299295662

169th Medical Group change of command ceremony
U.S. Air Force Col. Shane Stewart, outgoing commander of the 169th Medical Group, relinquishes command to U.S. Air Force Col. Phillip Latham, incoming commander of the 169th Medical Group at the Joint Armed Forces Reserve Center at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Oct. 3, 2020. The ceremony was presided over by Col. Akshai Gandhi, wing commander of the 169th Fighter Wing, and was attended by friends and family.

Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157716283599171

Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Shepherd retirement ceremony
U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Shepherd retires after 39 years of service to the South Carolina Air National Guard at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Oct. 3, 2020. The ceremony was presided over by Col. Michael Dunkin, director of operations for the South Carolina Air National Guard.

Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157716283599171
Col. Shane Stewart retirement ceremony
U.S. Air Force Col. Shane Stewart, previous commander of the 169th Medical Group, retires during a
ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Oct. 3, 2020. Stewart retired with 30 years
of service.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157716283934668

South Carolina National Guard chaplains talk about being humble
On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with U.S. Army Ch. (Maj.) John Denny, South Carolina
National Guard fulltime support chaplain, and U.S. Army Ch. (Capt.) Jason Strong, South Carolina National
Guard fulltime support chaplain, about being humble, going through tough times, and how dealing with difficult
situations isn’t a sign of weakness.
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-ZOSJkd3qVU

Swamp Fox recruiters meet FY20 goal by successfully adapting to a COVID-19 world
The 169th Fighter Wing’s Recruiting and Retention team met its fiscal year 2020 enlistment goal and continues
bringing in potential Airmen to the South Carolina Air National Guard (SCANG) during the COVID-19
pandemic. U.S. Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Steve David, Recruiting and Retention Superintendent, explained
his team has successfully adapted to COVID challenges by shifting to a more focused virtual approach when
communicating with applicants.
Article: https://www.dvidshub.net/news/380197/swamp-fox-recruiters-meet-fy20-goal-successfully-adapting-co
vid-19-world

Behind the scenes with the SCANG’s top recruiter
When it comes to recruiting, most people in the Air Force wouldn’t necessarily select that job as their first
choice. They either want to maintain jets, fly the aircraft, or just generally be where all the action is. However,
for U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Justin Cayton, a production recruiter for the 169th Fighter Wing, there’s nowhere
else he’d rather be except recruiting. Cayton loves his job as a recruiter and is the top production recruiter for
the South Carolina Air National Guard.

South Carolina National Guard exceeds fiscal year 2020 recruiting goals
Due to the demands on the National Guard, there is always a need for new recruits to join the ranks. In fiscal
year 2020 the Recruiting and Retention Battalion recruited 1,105 U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers into the
South Carolina National Guard. This accomplishment was more than 101 percent of the National Guard
Bureau (NGB) goal for the South Carolina National Guard to recruit during the fiscal year and surpassed the
number of enlistments for the organization in at least the past five years.
ng-goals

Soldier assists with medical emergency while activated for COVID-19 response efforts
A U.S. Army National Guard Soldier with the South Carolina National Guard recently assisted in the
emergency medical response for a patient involved in a car accident, Aug. 8, 2020 in Marion, South Carolina.
Article: https://www.dvidshub.net/news/380082/soldier-assists-with-medical-emergency-while-activated-covid-
19-response-efforts
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:

Oct. 16 - Simpsonville: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716681351192
Oct. 2 - Mullins: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716677312803

South Carolina National Guard prepares school meals
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard, pack boxes of food at the Chesterfield School District office Oct. 28, 2020, in Chesterfield, South Carolina.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716677400983

External Media Coverage:

94.3 The Dude’s soldier of the week: SC Army National Guard ret. LTC Martin Riser
Retired Lieutenant Colonel Martin Riser spent more than 20 years in the military. Riser first joined the US Army in the late 60s as a communication specialist.

94.3 The Dude’s soldier of the week: US Navy and Army veteran SFC Chris Allen
Sergeant First Class Chris Allen has served in the military for more than 22 years. What makes his service unique is he spent the time in two different branches.

Governor Presents Lexmark with U.S. Department of Defense Freedom Award
David Jenkins, who leads Lexmark’s IT Strategic Project Management Office and nominated Lexmark for the award, is a brigadier general and serves as assistant adjutant general for the South Carolina National Guard. "Lexmark values the leadership skills veterans bring to the table and recognizes the partnership that inherently exists with the Reserve Components of the U.S Armed Forces," said Jenkins. "From Captain to Flag Officer, through deployments and international expatriate assignments, Lexmark has enabled me to advance and realize my potential as a leader in both corporate America and the Army National Guard. I could not maintain the high tempo demanded of my military service without the unwavering advocacy and support of my colleagues at Lexmark."
Lexmark News: https://newsroom.lexmark.com/newsreleases?item=135056

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:

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