

## Public Affairs Update September 1-30, 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, Airmen, and civilian employees guidance on engaging in political activity: <https://www.scguard.ng.mil/Resources/Political-Guidance/>

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

#### **September is recognized as Suicide Prevention Month**

Suicide and mental illness can be uncomfortable topics to discuss and the stigma surrounding suicide can create barriers for those who may need to reach out and get the help they need. If you or someone you know needs help reach out to the following personnel. Whatever you do, don't suffer alone.

Need to talk to someone? Call the SCNG Behavioral Health Care Line 1-800-681-2558

In crisis? Call the Suicide Prevention Hotline 1-800-273-TALK (8255)

If it feels like too much to handle, call SC Hopes 844-724-6731

Peer Support is out there! <https://www.vets4warriors.com> 1-588-838-8255

**TAG Message:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72Myk-RS2XE>

**Podcast:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HlzslbVvKik>

**Pledge PSA:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3JY5ka3mM38>

**Awareness PSA:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KnEEfDBE2xY>

**Testimonial PSA:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d5NKaDXeoDk>

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

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, return home 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. The return of the Soldiers from the Middle East is conducted in stages due to mission requirements.

**Sept. 30:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716197501866>

**Sept. 19:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716073146398>

## **Gold Star Mother and Family Day**

The South Carolina Survivor Outreach Services honored Gold Star Mothers and Families with a virtual event Sept. 27, 2020, encouraging luminaries to be lit in honor of fallen service members.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716180549457>

## **SC-HART conducts static-training event**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers and civilian rescuers with the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) conduct static training at the South Carolina National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Sept. 24, 2020. The event included a program overview and familiarization phase for new SC-HART members, as well as refresher training for existing crews and rescue teams.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716113436723>

## **133rd Military Police trains with Kershaw County Sheriff's Office**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 133rd Military Police Company, 51st Military Police Battalion, South Carolina National Guard conducted training with Kershaw County Sheriff's Office Sept. 23-24, 2020 at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina. The purpose of this event was to provide civilian law enforcement with knowledge and skills to enhance their understanding of how Military Police operate during civil disturbance response and to demonstrate the long range acoustic device and the RAVEN Small Unmanned Aircraft System.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716196931242>

## **1050th Transportation Battalion trains on MATV**

U.S Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1050th Transportation Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, conducted Multi All Terrain Vehicle (MATV) training Sept. 22, 2020 at the contracting facility in Charleston, South Carolina. These Soldiers are being trained in order to move the equipment to additional contracting facilities. Almost 700 MATVs will be delivered in the near future and these Soldiers will assist with the movement of them.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716085979386>

## **South Carolina National Guard talks hurricane safety with SC Emergency Management Division**

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with Kim McLeod, Public Information Coordinator with South Carolina Emergency Management Division, about the 2020 hurricane season and what to expect with the current COVID-19 pandemic. She talks about ways to create an emergency plan and tools you can use to keep all your information in one location.

**Podcast:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lknILem3tFU>

## **742nd Change of Command ceremony**

The 742nd Surface Maintenance Company, South Carolina National Guard, conducted a change of command ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Sept. 13, 2020 to recognize the outgoing commander, U.S. Army Capt. Sidney Gray, and welcome the incoming commander, U.S. Army Capt. Jelani Rodriguez.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715995493713>

### **59th Aviation Troop Command safety awards, Broken Wing**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers of the 59th Aviation Troop Command, South Carolina National Guard, attend an aviation-safety day on Sept. 13, 2020, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina. The event included the presentation of several safety awards, to include the Broken Wing, an award reserved to aviators and aircrew members who managed to save lives or aircrafts during a midair emergency. The Broken Wing award was given to Chief Warrant Officer Jeffrey R. Hodish for actions performed during a successful emergency landing executed in 2014. During the ceremony, each member of the crew received the Meritorious Service Medal. Attending the event was U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Jones, Deputy Adjutant General for the South Carolina Military Department.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715971715533>

### **351st Safety Day**

The 351st Aviation Support Battalion, South Carolina National Guard hosted a safety day Sept. 13, 2020, at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina. The event included displays from local government and civilian safety organizations and training activities.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715958640612>

### **1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion and 2-263rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion joint-training exercise**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion and the 2-263rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, conduct a joint-training exercise in Oconee County, South Carolina, Sep. 9, 2020. The event provided both units the opportunity to exchange experiences and technical knowledge on their respective equipment, tactics, and mission capabilities.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715960778573>

### **Company A, 1-118th Infantry Battalion awards ceremony**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Company A, 1-118th Infantry Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, receive recognition during an awards ceremony held at the readiness center in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, Sept. 12, 2020. Soldiers were recognized for their achievements supporting the District of Columbia National Guard in the nation's capital in June 2020.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715954789486>

### **1980th Support Detachment Soldiers deploy to Middle East**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1980th Support Detachment, South Carolina National Guard, departed from the Columbia Metropolitan Airport in Columbia, South Carolina, Sept. 12, 2020 for a deployment to the Middle East in support of Operation Spartan Shield.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715995153938>

### **Col. Stewart's F-16 orientation flight**

U.S. Air Force Col. Joseph Stewart, commander of the 169th Medical Group at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, receives a South Carolina Air National Guard F-16 fighter jet orientation flight from Col. Akshai Gandhi, commander of the 169th Fighter Wing, Sept. 12, 2020.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157716004634022>

### **Lt. Col. Marion Bulwinkle promotion ceremony**

The South Carolina National Guard hosts a ceremony for U.S. Army Lt. Col. Marion A. Bulwinkle III, in Columbia, South Carolina, Sept. 11, 2020, to recognize his promotion to colonel. Bulwinkle has more than 28 years of service in the South Carolina National Guard, enlisting in 1992 as a tow gunner for Company E, 1-118th Infantry Battalion and accepting his commission as a second lieutenant through the Palmetto Military Academy Class 45 Officer Candidate School in 1994.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715957555637>

### **South Carolina National Guard honors memory of September 11**

The South Carolina National Guard honors the memory of Sept. 11, 2001 by participating in a remembrance ceremony held at the Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center in Columbia, South Carolina, Sept. 11, 2020. The ceremony included remarks by South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster, keynote speaker Robert L. Caslen Jr., University of South Carolina president, music by the 246th Army Band, South Carolina National Guard, an F-16 flyover by the South Carolina Air National Guard, as well as other honors rendered in remembrance of the events of 9/11. The South Carolina National Guard is committed to preserving the memory of all service members who have given the ultimate sacrifice to their country since 9/11, as well as supporting current and former military service members and first responders.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715932120097>

### **Apache, FARP operations**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, set up a forward arming and refueling point (FARP) Sept. 10, 2020 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina. The purpose of the FARP is to provide a close point for helicopters to refuel and receive more ammunition so they can quickly return to their mission.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716025855207>

### **South Carolina National Guard supports MARSOC training**

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Det. 1 Company B, 238th General Support Aviation Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, support a Marine Forces Special Operations Command (MARSOC) training exercise, with a CH-47F Chinook helicopter in vicinity of Greenwood, South Carolina, Sept. 6, 2020. The multi-day exercise was part of the MARSOC qualification process and included a variety of simulated-scenario events.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715898487192>

## **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:

**Sept. 24, Columbia:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716194623893>

**Sept. 21, Florence:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716077089833>

**Sept. 18, Columbia:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716079002147>

**Sept. 18, Rock Hill:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716075432258>

**Sept. 3, Woodruff:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716074742933>

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

U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. James Bosley, 169th Medical Group, performs a nasopharyngeal swab on mission essential Airmen assigned to an Aerospace Control Alert trained unit with the South Carolina Air National Guard Sept. 25, 2020 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716159618386>

### **COVID-19 Press Conference with U.S. Surgeon General**

Vice Admiral Jerome Adams, 20th Surgeon General of the United States, Gov. Henry McMaster, South Carolina governor, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina, and other members of the federal, state and local government held a press conference on the status of COVID-19 and the upcoming flu season, Sept. 19, 2020 at the Martin Luther King Jr. Park in Columbia, South Carolina, where U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard supported a mobile testing site.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157716076978943>

### **263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command Soldiers recognized by Massachusetts National Guard**

U.S. Army Soldiers with the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), South Carolina National Guard, received the Massachusetts Emergency Service Ribbon in recognition of their support to the COVID – 19 response efforts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The Massachusetts Emergency Service Ribbon is presented by Col. Richard A. Wholey Jr., 263rd AAMDC Chief of Staff, under the authority of Maj. Gen. Gary W. Keefe, The Adjutant General of the Massachusetts National Guard, Sept. 12, 2020, in Anderson South Carolina. Recipients were U.S. Army Col. Richard A. Wholey Jr., U.S. Army Maj. Michael Loignon, U.S. Army Maj. Matthew Campbell, U.S. Army Maj. Brent Pipkin, U.S. Army Capt. William Bottoms, U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Helen Davis, U.S. Army Master Sgt. Darin Hawfield, U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Matthew Owens, U.S. Army Sgt. Kathleen Ellis, U.S. Army Spc. Tyrel Harper, U.S. Army Pfc. Monica Tucker.

**Photos:** <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157715944767891>

## **External Media Coverage:**

### **94.3 The Dude's Soldier of the week: SC Army National Guardsman Lt. Jamie Williams**

Williams initially enlisted and attended basic training in Fort Sill, Oklahoma. There, he learned the value of the military's basic training. "It was fun, but don't get me wrong, it was tough. After completing basic training, I didn't think there was anything I couldn't do, as long as I worked hard." Williams later attended the Palmetto Military Academy and commissioned as an officer.

#### **ColaDaily:**

[https://www.coladaily.com/communities/columbia/94-3-the-dudes-soldier-of-the-week-sc-army-national-guardsman-lt-jamie-williams/article\\_9a48ac00-f1e2-11ea-8153-47aea5fbbebe.html](https://www.coladaily.com/communities/columbia/94-3-the-dudes-soldier-of-the-week-sc-army-national-guardsman-lt-jamie-williams/article_9a48ac00-f1e2-11ea-8153-47aea5fbbebe.html)

## **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
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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>