

Public Affairs Update April 1-30, 2021



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.

The digital FY2020 Annual Report can be found here:

https://www.scgard.ng.mil/Portals/45/Documents/annual%20reports/Annual%20Report%202020.pdf?ver=xZKjG_hQx_wl_Sot2WUB8Q%3d%3d

The South Carolina National Guard is providing COVID-19 vaccinations for currently serving South Carolina Air and Army National Guard service members, eligible military retirees with a valid DoD retiree ID card, and eligible beneficiaries, age 18 and older. To make an appointment or for any questions, call 803-299-4460:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/394673/south-carolina-national-guard-announces-covid-19-vaccination-sites>

May is recognized as Military Spouse Appreciation Month as an opportunity to recognize military spouses for their strength, resilience, and commitment to the readiness and well-being of service members.

South Carolina National Guard Training, Missions, Current Events:

228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade change of responsibility

The 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, conducted a change of responsibility ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, April 30, 2021, to recognize the outgoing command sergeant major, U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. William R. Kyzer II, and welcome the incoming command sergeant major, U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley D. Weathers.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719122373925>

South Carolina National Guard talks with Health and Wellness coaches

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian, we talk with Mr. Darryl Hammond and Coach Toni Hiett, South Carolina National Guard Health and Wellness program coaches, about the services this program can offer to service members.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rKLSUFOI5Aw>

Chaplain Darden promotion ceremony

U.S. Army Chaplain Lt. Col. Norris D. Darden, South Carolina National Guard senior state chaplain, is promoted to the rank of colonel during a ceremony April 30, 2021, at the Bluff Road armory in Columbia, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719061575488>

South Carolina Air National Guard engineers participate in joint training during airfield repair demonstration

Eight Airmen from the 169th Civil Engineer Squadron (169CES) joined Pacific Air Forces and U.S. Navy engineers to participate in an Expedient and Expeditionary Airfield Damage Repair (E-ADR) Joint Capability Technology Demonstration at McEntire Joint National Guard Base (JNGB), South Carolina April 21-28, 2021. The demonstration simulated the rapid repair of a battle damaged runway.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/395347/swamp-fox-engineers-participate-joint-training-during-airfield-repair-demonstration>

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719055178213>

Staff Sgt. John Arnold receives Chief 54, the highest honor in Recruiting, Retention

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Arnold, South Carolina National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion, was recognized as the Chief 54 for South Carolina, the highest honor in Recruiting and Retention, during a ceremony held in Columbia, South Carolina, April 28, 2021.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/395146/staff-sgt-john-arnold-receives-chief-54-highest-honor-recruiting-retention>

Swamp Foxes deploy to Saudi Arabia for expeditionary force rotation

Approximately 300 Airmen and a contingent of F-16CJ Fighting Falcon aircraft from the South Carolina Air National Guard's 169th Fighter Wing have deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base (PSAB), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/393816/swamp-foxes-deploy-saudi-arabia-expeditionary-force-rotation>

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157718984850715> and <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157718984872910>

South Carolina National Guard announces next command senior enlisted leader

The South Carolina National Guard announces U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Camille R. W. Caldwell as the next state command senior enlisted leader (CSEL) for the South Carolina National Guard.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/393763/south-carolina-national-guard-announces-next-command-senior-enlisted-leader>

218th MEB conducts individual weapons qualification

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Headquarters Support Company, and 111th Signal Company, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, conduct their individual weapons qualification at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, April 24-25, 2021. The Soldiers qualified on the M4 carbine and M9 pistol.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719049782212>

218th MEB, Headquarters Support Company promotion ceremony

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Headquarters Support Company, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina Army National Guard, hold a promotion ceremony at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, April 24, 2021.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719076353020>

South Carolina National Guard returns town flag to Moncks Corner

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brandon Jackson, Detachment 2, Company C, 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, returns the Moncks Corner town flag, April 23, 2021, at the recreation complex in Moncks Corner, South Carolina, after a deployment to Afghanistan where the flag was flown overseas. The flag was given to Jackson, who grew up in Moncks Corner, and the unit as a testament of the town's support and gratitude to the men and women who served overseas. The flag was returned back as a tribute of gratitude for the support shown by the town.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719058959870>

South Carolina National Guard assist with South Carolina-Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team training event

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers who are UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crew members assigned to the South Carolina Army National Guard along with the South Carolina-Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) participate in exercises training members on hoist and mobile communications packages used during domestic operations and individual missions, April 19, 2021, at the South Carolina Fire Academy in Columbia, South Carolina. SC-HART consists of a combined effort of the State Urban Search and Rescue Task Force under the leadership of South Carolina Labor, Licensing, and Regulations Office of the State Fire Marshal, South Carolina Emergency Management Division and the South Carolina Army National Guard Aviation units. The units are trained to respond to helicopter rescues nationwide in multiple terrains to include, but not limited to, swift water, open water, confined area, urban structure, and mountain condition search and rescue. The South Carolina National Guard uses collaborative training and exercises to help bridge the partnership between military and civilian communication programs.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719022263810>

117th Engineer Brigade conducts Best Engineer Competition

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 117th Engineer Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, participate in the Best Engineer Competition held at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, Apr. 16-18, 2021.

<https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718958821148>

South Carolina National Guard conducts memorial bench dedication ceremony

The South Carolina National Guard conducts a dedication ceremony April 17, 2021 in Columbia, South Carolina for a memorial bench honoring South Carolina National Guard service members who have died while deployed in support of combat operations.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718949743043>

1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion establishes FARP to support air operations

U.S. Army Soldiers with Company D and Company E, 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, South Carolina Army National Guard, establish and operate a forward arming and refueling point at North Auxiliary Airfield, in North, South Carolina, April 17, 2021 to provide support for UH-60 Black Hawk, AH-64 Apache and CH-47 Chinook helicopters for air operations throughout the state. The Soldiers and aircrews were participating in both airlift operations and aerial gunnery qualifications over drill weekend.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718966901536>

Aviators maintain weapons proficiency during aerial gunnery table

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the Company A, 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, South Carolina Army National Guard, conduct aerial gunnery and practice firing techniques over drill weekend at Poinsett Electronic Combat Range, Sumter, South Carolina April 16, 2021. The aircrews fired both 30mm rounds and rockets and the training allowed Soldiers to sharpen their maintenance, refueling and armory skills with their assigned AH-64 Apache helicopters during the three day training.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718961080372>

South Carolina National Guard talks about living your best life

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with Mrs. Lisa Mustard, South Carolina National Guard behavioral health office, about how to live your best life and live based on your core values.

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

263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command promotes Smith to sergeant major

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), South Carolina National Guard, recognized the promotion of U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Jadd Smith to sergeant major, April 16, 2021 in Anderson, South Carolina. Smith was the first sergeant at Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2-263 Air Defense and Artillery Battalion and will be transferring to the 263rd AAMDC in Anderson, South Carolina where he will fill the senior human resource position. Pinning him was Carla Smith, wife. In attendance were Micah Smith and Chloe Smith, children, Marion W. Smith, father, John and Donna Smith, brother and sister-in-law, and Fredia and Ray Longenecker, mother and father-in-law.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718947658544>

Lt. Col. McElveen promotion ceremony

U.S. Army Lt. Col. John McElveen, South Carolina National Guard state Army aviation officer, is promoted to the rank of colonel during a ceremony April 15, 2021, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718950746832>

Joint training exercise with Shaw Air Force Base

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, the Detachment 1, Company B, 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, and Company A, 1-111th General Support Aviation Battalion South Carolina National Guard, provide crash rescue training on an AH-64 Apache helicopter, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter, and a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter for Shaw Air Force Base personnel April 12, 2021 at Shaw Air Force Base in Sumter, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718969535150>

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/393666/usarcent-celebrates-army-aviation-birthday-with-joint-multi-mpo-exercise>

263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command conducts individual weapons qualification

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers of the 263rd Army and Air Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), South Carolina National Guard, conduct Individual Weapons Qualification (IWQ) adhering to current standards April 10-11, 2021, at Fort Jackson, Columbia, South Carolina. The Soldiers used M17/18s and the various firing positions to maximize their efficiency during the IWQ, while the enlisted Soldiers also used M4s with Advanced Combat Optical Gunsight and the various firing positions to maximize their efficiency during the IWQ.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718924656307>

South Carolina National Guard talks about the stigma with mental health

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with U.S. Air Force Command Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Thomas, South Carolina National Guard command senior enlisted leader, U.S. Army 1st Lt. Chantal Johnson, Behavioral Health Officer, and Mr. Rico Brown, Wing Director of Psychological Health, about the South Carolina National Guard mental health section and breaking the stigma that comes with getting help for mental health.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=89Tjl-ZAYU>

Month of the Military Child proclamation reading:

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jeff Jones, deputy adjutant general for the South Carolina Military Department, attends the Month of the Military Child proclamation at the State House in Columbia, South Carolina, April 7, 2021. During this event, South Carolina Gov. Henry McMaster designated April as the Month of the Military Child in South Carolina while also recognizing the role in which Purple Star Schools play in supporting military youth across the state of South Carolina. The Month of the Military Child is a time to pay tribute to the added strength and support military youth bring to the armed forces community. The Purple Star School Program supports youth connected to the military as they transition and relocate to new schools in correlation to a parent's change in duty station.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718930922075>

South Carolina National Guard announces next 117th Engineer Brigade commander

The South Carolina National Guard announces U.S. Army Lt. Col. Kevin Berry as the next commander of the 117th Engineer Brigade, South Carolina Army National Guard, headquartered in Newberry, South Carolina.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/392933/south-carolina-national-guard-announces-next-117th-engineer-brigade-commander>

South Carolina National Guard talks with Medical Training Team

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with U.S. Army Sgt. Corey Outen and U.S. Army Cpl. Tracy Caulder, about the South Carolina National Guard medical training team, what their training and capabilities are, and how they can be used to support non-medical units throughout the state.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q1NmCet0zTo>

South Carolina National Guard supports MARSOC training event

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 Fort Bragg, North Carolina, April 2, 2021. The multi-day exercise was part of the MARSOC qualification process and included a variety of simulated-scenario events and role-playing opposing teams. Specifically, today's event was focused on combat-casualty care, and inflight medical-procedures.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718928763610>

South Carolina National Guard gives overview events from the first quarter of 2021

In this installment of the Guardian Quarterly the South Carolina National Guard Public Affairs office covers events in the first quarter of 2021. Topics range from the South Carolina National Guard's efforts to combat COVID-19, new position appointments, highlights of this year's state-level Best Warrior Competition, and more are all covered in this episode.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mH7prmnTIRk>

COVID-19 Response Coverage:

COVID-19 vaccination briefing

U.S. Army Col. Joshua Lipschutz, South Carolina Army National Guard Medical Command, shares information about the COVID-19 vaccination, the science behind it, and why he chose to get the vaccine.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TUZv-jhGcg8>

Testing and vaccine site support:

Batesburg: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719103775435>

Sumter: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719042054554>

Fountain Inn: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719002138517>

Columbia: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718985725607>

Orangeburg: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718999938400>

Columbia: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718950414253>

North Charleston: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718929117144>

McEntire Joint National Guard Base: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718899669766>

Darlington: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718892882535>

External Media

Gov. McMaster visits South Carolina National Guard Soldiers on U.S. Southern Border

Governor Henry McMaster traveled with South Carolina's Adjutant General, MG Van McCarty, to visit South Carolina National Guard Soldiers serving on the United States Southern Border in Texas Friday, April 8, through Saturday, April 9.

FOX28:

<https://fox28media.com/news/local/gov-mcmaster-visit-south-carolina-national-guard-soldiers-us-border>

Live5: <https://www.live5news.com/2021/04/10/mcmaster-visits-sc-national-guard-troops-border/>

WRDW/WAGT:

<https://www.wrdw.com/2021/04/09/mcmaster-to-visit-southern-us-border-meet-national-guard-troops/>

FOX Carolina:

https://www.foxcarolina.com/gov-mcmaster-visits-south-carolina-national-guard-soldiers-at-the-southern-border-of-the-united/article_8b2fb572-9a45-11eb-9634-cbd0d0182f68.html

Over 300 South Carolina Air National Guard deploy to Saudi Arabia

The South Carolina Air National Guard (SCANG) is reporting approximately 300 Airmen and a contingent of F-16CJ Fighting Falcon aircraft from the SCANG 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National Guard Base have deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base (PSAB), Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

News19:

<https://www.wltx.com/article/news/national/military-news/south-carolina-air-national-guard-deployed-to-saudi-arabia/101-c21255e2-8622-4614-b1c2-2030bfb2161d>

Defense News:

<https://www.upi.com/Defense-News/2021/04/14/scang-airnationalguard-southcarolina-saudi/7561618422118/>

South Carolina National Guard announces next 117th Engineer Brigade commander

The South Carolina National Guard announced that U.S. Army Lt. Col. Kevin Berry will be the next commander of the 117th Engineer Brigade, South Carolina Army National Guard, headquartered in Newberry.

Newberry Observer:

<https://www.newberryobserver.com/news/33852/s-c-national-guard-announces-next-117th-engineer-brigade-commander>

The Times and Democrat:

https://thetandd.com/news/local/military/orangeburg-native-to-command-guard-brigade/article_3ebd2455-3193-520c-b178-29a678d3d61d.html

Moncks Corner Black Hawk pilot returns town flag after Afghanistan deployment

Jackson, who returned in August from his 11-month deployment to Afghanistan, had one final mission to complete on this cloudless spring morning. Jackson wanted to return the flag, along with a U.S. flag that the rescue company had flown in Afghanistan, to the town Mayor Michael Locklear.

Post & Courier:

https://www.postandcourier.com/militarydigest/moncks-corner-black-hawk-pilot-returns-town-flag-after-afghanistan-deployment/article_22498bea-a1e9-11eb-88d4-6f2676219942.html

122nd Engineer Battalion receives USO care bags

South Carolina National Guard soldiers from the 122nd Engineer Battalion, in Edgefield, recently received care bags from the USO.

Newberry Observer:

<https://www.newberryobserver.com/news/33858/122nd-engineer-battalion-receives-uso-care-bags>

State official recognize April as Month of the Military Child

State officials have recognized the month of April as the Month of the Military Child. It's a chance to celebrate children all across the nation who make sacrifices and overcome many challenges.

ABC Columbia:

<https://www.abccolumbia.com/2021/04/07/state-officials-recognize-april-as-the-month-of-the-military-child/>

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:	@official_scguard	@scairnationalguard
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Youtube:	SCNationalGuard	S.C. Air National Guard
DVIDS:	South Carolina National Guard	169th Fighter Wing