

Public Affairs Update August 1 - September 5, 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.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 recognizes 20-year anniversary of September 11th

The South Carolina National Guard recognizes the contributions and accomplishments of the U.S. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have served in the South Carolina National Guard since September 11, 2001 with a documentary highlighting some of the deployments of the Major Subordinate Commands.

Documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xg04h32Lc74>

Collection of photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/collections/72157719777001459/>

South Carolina National Guard to support Louisiana in aftermath of Hurricane Ida

The South Carolina National Guard is preparing to assist Louisiana, Aug. 31, 2021, with personnel and equipment in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/404232/south-carolina-national-guard-support-louisiana-after-math-hurricane-ida>

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719768009979> and <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719773211799>

South Carolina National Guard to support health care facilities

The South Carolina National Guard was requested to assist with administering the COVID-19 vaccination and provide patient care at multiple health care facilities throughout the state, scheduled to begin Sept. 7, 2021.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/404561/south-carolina-national-guard-support-health-care-facilities>

South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team rescues injured hiker, two others at Raven Cliff Falls

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard and civilian rescuers with the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) rescued an injured hiker and two others Aug. 20, 2021, near Raven Cliff Falls in Caesar's Head State Park, South Carolina.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/404059/south-carolina-helicopter-aquatic-rescue-team-rescues-injured-hiker-two-others-raven-cliff-falls>

169th Fighter Wing hosts runway repair demonstration follow up

U.S. Air Force civil engineers from the pavements and construction equipment career field, from eight separate units, team up with U.S. Navy Seabees from the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 133, Gulfport, Mississippi for an Expedient and Expeditionary Airfield Damage Repair (E-ADR) demonstration at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Aug. 27, 2021. The purpose of the training is to provide just enough, just in time repair capability with minimal cost and materials in a wartime situation.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/404368/169th-fighter-wing-hosts-second-airfield-repair-demonstration>

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719741803638>

South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team training event at Table Rock

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers and civilian rescuers with the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team conduct aerial-rescue training in mountainous terrain in conjunction with the South Carolina Emergency Management Division, Table Rock, South Carolina, Aug. 24, 2021. The event included a variety of training scenarios emphasizing survivor extractions from mountain slopes and tops, as well as aquatic rescue. Additionally, crews and rescuers performed refresher and proficiency training for the ongoing hurricane season.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719733083281>

South Carolina National Guard talks about education benefits

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with U.S. Army 1st Lt. Shanekqua Holmes, South Carolina National Guard education services officer, and Monica Hirchert, South Carolina National Guard education services specialist, about education benefits and how to apply for tuition assistance.

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5mGLLji4GNY>

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, Aug. 19, 2021. The class is made up of National Guard Soldiers from multiple states. Throughout the 2-week 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.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719709799811>

Hush house engine testing

U.S. Air National Guard Airmen from the 169th Maintenance Squadron's Aerospace Propulsion shop perform quality control tests on an F-16 Fighting Falcon jet engine at the "Hush House" on McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Aug. 19, 2021. The "Hush House" is an on-base facility where Aerospace Propulsion specialists can openly observe the jet engine while it is running to ensure operational safety and functionality.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719739076344>

South Carolina National Guard conducts change of responsibility for command senior enlisted leader

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Camille Caldwell, incoming South Carolina National Guard state command senior enlisted advisor, passes a flag to U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. William R. Kyzer II, South Carolina National Guard state command sergeant major, during a change of responsibility ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Aug. 14, 2021. The presentation and acceptance of the flag is a tradition that symbolizes the responsibility given by the outgoing state command senior enlisted leader and received by the incoming state command senior enlisted leader.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719683996211>

South Carolina National Guard conducts officer candidate school graduation

The South Carolina National Guard conducted a ceremony for the graduates of the South Carolina National Guard Palmetto Military Academy (PMA) class 72, officer candidate school (OCS) under the 218th Regional Training Institute at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, Aug. 14, 2021.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/403256/south-carolina-national-guard-conducts-officer-candidate-school-graduation>

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719733065860>

Two South Carolina National Guard colonels inducted into Palmetto Military Academy hall of fame

The South Carolina National Guard conducted a Palmetto Military Academy (PMA) hall of fame induction ceremony recognizing U.S. Army Col. Byron Williams, II, and U.S. Army Col. Timothy Wood, Aug. 14, 2021 at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/403262/two-south-carolina-national-guard-colonels-inducted-into-palmetto-military-academy-hall-fame>

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719690690397>

Carr assumes responsibility as the State Command Chief for the South Carolina Air National Guard

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Isaac Carr assumes responsibility as the new State Command Chief for the South Carolina Air National Guard (SCANG) during a ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Aug. 14, 2021. The presiding officer is U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Scott Bridgers, Assistant Adjutant General, Air. Carr is the fourteenth State Command Chief for the SCANG and takes over from U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Thomas who is retiring. In his new role, Carr will be the enlisted advisor for senior SCANG leadership.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719737762960>

169th Communications Squadron assumption of command

U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Alex Jackson assumes command of the 169th Communications Squadron at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, Aug. 14, 2021. Col. Tim Datson, 169th Mission Support Group Commander, serves as the presiding official for the ceremony.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719695348137>

South Carolina National Guard Soldier selected to serve as Chief of Staff, Senior Guard Advisor to Commanding General of United States Army Training Center at Fort Jackson

U.S. Army Col. Byron Williams, II, South Carolina National Guard, was selected to serve as the Chief of Staff, Senior Guard Advisor to the Commanding General of the United States Army Training Center (USATC) at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/404238/south-carolina-national-guard-soldier-selected-serve-chief-staff-senior-guard-advisor-commanding-general-united>

Health and Wellness workouts

Coaches from the Health and Wellness section of Service Member and Family Care offer exercises to help improve your health and fitness.

Side Plank: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2pfEdAtvVHA>

Hollow Hold: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FJi4bRfLdpg>

Decline Bench Leg Tuck: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sxa4shhvLAq>

Plank: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OR5tNuxqFmo>

South Carolina National Guard talks about communication skills

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with Mrs. Lisa Mustard, South Carolina National Guard behavioral health office, about communication skills and different ways to successfully communicate with others and how to have a healthy conversation.

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=95FBB89RO8o>

1-178th Field Artillery conducts individual weapons qualification

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers of the 1-178th Field Artillery Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, conduct Individual Weapons Qualification (IWQ) adhering to current standards Aug. 12-15, 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/72157719675913659>

Army Reserve makes a splash with National Guard

The 361st and 310th Multi-Role Bridge Companies (MRBC) under the 926th Engineer Brigade joined the South Carolina National Guard's 125th MRBC at Fort Stewart last month in a breathtaking display of bridge creation so large military vehicles can cross a lake.

Story:

https://www.army.mil/article/249259/army_reserve_makes_a_splash_with_national_guard

South Carolina National Guard welcomes new garrison commander at McCrady Training Center

The South Carolina National Guard conducted a change of command ceremony at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina for the McCrady Training Center garrison command, Aug. 8, 2021, to honor the outgoing commander, U.S. Army Col. Gregory M. Farley, and welcome the incoming commander, U.S. Army Lt. Col. (promotable) Adrian M. Priester. Farley relinquished his command to Priester after serving as the garrison commander since August 2018.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719652833189>

218th Regional Training Institute conducts change of command ceremony

The South Carolina National Guard conducts a change of command ceremony for the 218th Regional Training Institute (RTI) Aug. 8, 2021 at the McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina. The ceremony was held to recognize the outgoing commander U.S. Army Col. Byron Williams, II, and welcome the incoming commander, U.S. Army Col. Richard Zeigler, III.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719657843586>

Lt. Col. Jason Turner promotion to colonel

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jason Turner, South Carolina National Guard director of military support (J3), is promoted to the rank of colonel during a ceremony Aug. 7, 2021, at the Bluff Road armory in Columbia, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719659738057>

Inspector General of the Army visits South Carolina National Guard

U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Leslie Smith, Inspector General of the Army, meets with U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers attending the South Carolina National Guard pre-command course, to discuss current trends and issues within the U.S. Army, Aug. 4, 2021, at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina. The visit included a site visit with the South Carolina National Guard pre-command course and a discussion of topics that impact the South Carolina National Guard.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719639879429>

1st Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment holds change of command

The 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment, South Carolina National Guard, honored U.S. Army Lt. Col. Kenneth N. Snow, 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment outgoing commander, and welcomed U.S. Army Lt. Col. Mark L. McGee, during the 1st Battalion, 118th Infantry Regiment change of command held at the Mount Pleasant readiness center in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, Aug. 1, 2021. Snow relinquished his command to McGee after a successful three-year post as commander.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719702168430>

External Media

South Carolina National Guard to help hospitals due to coronavirus surge

Three hospitals on the coast and a medical facility in Newberry County are among those receiving assistance from the SC National Guard.

News 19:

<https://www.wltx.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/national-guard-sc-being-asked-to-help-hospitals-with-covid/101-92affd3d-846d-42f5-bcd2-472870442c4d>

5K National Guard members deployed to assist Hurricane Ida relief efforts

More than 5,100 National Guard members have been deployed to states on the Gulf Coast to help assist with relief efforts following Hurricane Ida. The press release from the National Guard also notes that the South Carolina National Guard was "preparing to assist Louisiana with personnel and equipment in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida."

Newsweek:

<https://www.newsweek.com/5k-national-guard-members-deployed-assist-hurricane-ida-relief-efforts-1624763>

U.S. Army:

https://www.army.mil/article/249862/multiple_states_guard_members_support_hurricane_relief

News 19:

<https://www.wltx.com/article/weather/southcarolina-army-national-guard-heads-to-louisiana-in-aftermath-of-hurricane-ida/101-08f660bf-4127-453d-b7ae-b82073345034>

Midlands attorney makes South Carolina military history

He just became the third Military Judge for the South Carolina Army National Guard and the first African-American to hold that position.

WACH FOX:

<https://wach.com/news/local/midlands-attorney-makes-south-carolina-military-history>

Lexington Ledger:

<https://www.swlexledger.com/single-post/swansea-native-becomes-first-african-american-military-judge-in-sc>

Helicopter rescues 3 hikers near Raven Cliff Falls

Three hikers were rescued Friday morning near Raven Cliff Falls in Greenville County, according to fire officials. A rescue crew from the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team hoisted the hikers and two rescuers, who were with them overnight, to safety.

WYFF 4:

<https://www.wyff4.com/article/3-hikers-rescued-by-helicopter-at-raven-cliff-falls/37357459#>

AF.mil:

<https://www.ang.af.mil/Media/Article-Display/Article/2756517/south-carolina-guard-helps-rescue-injured-hiker-two-others/>

U.S. Army:

https://www.army.mil/article/249800/south_carolina_guard_helps_rescue_injured_hiker_two_others

S.C. National Guard conducts officer candidate school graduation

The South Carolina National Guard conducted a ceremony for the graduates of the South Carolina National Guard Palmetto Military Academy (PMA) class 72, officer candidate school (OCS) under the 218th Regional Training Institute at McCrady Training Center in Eastover on Aug. 14.

Newberry Observer:

<https://www.newberryobserver.com/news/35129/s-c-national-guard-conducts-officer-candidate-school-graduation>

Sumter man named stated command chief by South Carolina Air National Guard

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sergeant Isaac M. Carr is announced as the 14th South Carolina Air National Guard's (SCANG) State Command Chief.

Count on News 2:

[https://www.counton2.com/news/south-carolina-news/sumter-man-named-state-command-chieif-by-south-carolina-air-national-guard/](https://www.counton2.com/news/south-carolina-news/sumter-man-named-state-command-chief-by-south-carolina-air-national-guard/)

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.

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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DVIDS:	South Carolina National Guard	169th Fighter Wing