

Public Affairs Update December 1-31, 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.

South Carolina National Guard Training, Missions, Current Events:

South Carolina National Guard provides overview of events from the fourth quarter of 2021

In this installment of the Guardian Quarterly the South Carolina National Guard Public Affairs office covers events in the fourth quarter of 2021. Topics range from training, promotion ceremonies, and more all covered in this episode.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dkhj0D9BUfk>

South Carolina National Guard participates in Camden wreath laying ceremony

Current and former military service members and families commemorated fallen heroes during a wreath-laying ceremony Dec. 18, 2021, at the Quaker Cemetery in Camden, South Carolina. More than 800 wreaths were laid at the grave sites after the dedication ceremony. The ceremony is in collaboration with the National Wreaths Across America Day, where wreaths are laid at the grave sites of those who have served in the armed forces. The purpose is to remember, honor, and teach about those who have fought for freedom since the Revolutionary War. This year, more than 3,100 cemeteries are participating in the Wreaths Across America Day.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72177720295368430>

Final flight for Chief Warrant Officer 5 Austin Norris

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer Austin Norris, Detachment 5, Company B, 2-641 Aviation Regiment, South Carolina Army National Guard (SCARNG), completes his final flight aboard a Fairchild C-26E Metroliner fix-wing aircraft from the Columbia Metropolitan Airport, South Carolina, Dec. 16, 2021. Family, friends, guests and colleagues attended the event and celebrated Norris' final flight as a military pilot. Norris served as the detachment commander for his last assignment of a career that spanned over 38 years.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72177720295343889>

133rd Military Police conduct pre-deployment training

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 133rd Military Police Company, South Carolina National Guard, conduct training operations at McCrady Training Center, in Eastover, South Carolina, Dec. 16, 2021. The training consisted of police operations, patrol lanes, and detaining personnel. The training is part of preparations for their upcoming deployment.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72177720295339345>

South Carolina National Guard recognizes 385th birthday of the National Guard

Leadership and staff of South Carolina National Guard celebrate the U.S. National Guard's 385th birthday with a cake-cutting ceremony Dec. 14, 2021, in Columbia, South Carolina. During the event, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina, recognized the accomplishments of the South Carolina National Guard in 2021 and throughout its history. The event culminated with the cutting of the cake performed by the adjutant general, assisted by the oldest and the youngest members of the South Carolina National Guard, respectively Maj. Gen. Brad Owens and Pvt. Ashlee Hiestin.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720243080126>

South Carolina National Guard participates in wreath laying ceremony for fallen service members

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina, and U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Akshai Gandhi, South Carolina National Guard assistant adjutant general-Air, participate in a wreath-laying ceremony for the Armed Forces Memorial at the State House in Columbia, South Carolina, Dec. 13, 2021.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720233265819>

South Carolina Survivor Outreach Services hosts annual Holiday Wishes event for families of fallen military

The South Carolina Survivor Outreach Services hosts the annual Holiday Wishes event in Columbia, South Carolina, Dec. 11, 2021, to honor Gold Star Mothers and Families and their fallen service members. U.S Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina, shared a message of encouragement and hope and the event included a ceremony for surviving Family members to hang an ornament on a tree in honor of their fallen service member and an opportunity to share special memories.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720230795744>

South Carolina Survivor Outreach Services conducts Tree for the Fallen ceremony

U.S Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, South Carolina adjutant general, joined Governor Henry McMaster, representatives of the Gold Star Mothers association and families of South Carolina National Guard's fallen service members to conduct a "Tree for the Fallen" lighting and dedication ceremony at the State House in Columbia, South Carolina, Dec. 7, 2021. The tree be on display at the state house throughout the holidays to remember all South Carolina's fallen service members.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720220752426>

South Carolina National Guard Soldier names South Carolina Recruiter of the Year

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Otis Franklin, a recruiter with the Company C, Recruiting and Retention Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, was named South Carolina's Recruiter of the Year, at a banquet Dec. 3, 2021 for the fiscal year 2021.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/411271/south-carolina-national-guard-soldier-named-south-carolina-recruiter-year>

Maj. Nathan Patrick promotion to lieutenant colonel

U.S. Army Maj. Nathan S. Patrick, 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion, 59th Aviation Troop Command (ATC), South Carolina National Guard, was promoted to the rank of lieutenant colonel, during a ceremony at the South Carolina National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Dec. 5, 2021.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720223872569>

Retirement ceremony for Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel McLellan

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Daniel L. McLellan Jr., former 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade command sergeant major, South Carolina National Guard, was recognized for his service and leadership at a retirement ceremony, Dec. 5, 2021, in Mullins, South Carolina. McLellan is retiring after 33 years of service to the South Carolina National Guard.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720219182302>

South Carolina Air National Guard conducts blood drive

U.S. Air National Guard Airmen from the 169th Fighter Wing participated in a blood drive with the American Red Cross at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina Dec. 5, 2021.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157720212068014>

South Carolina National Guard conducts rededication ceremony for Florence Readiness Center

The South Carolina National Guard held a rededication ceremony of the readiness center in Florence, South Carolina, Dec. 4, 2021. The Florence Readiness Center is the home of the 51st Military Police Battalion, South Carolina National Guard. The readiness center had numerous renovations and improvements completed to include improved office spaces, new restroom facilities, increased storage areas, updated fencing, resurfaced driveway, and a new emergency power system.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720203364298>

South Carolina National Guard conducts State Partnership Program maintenance engagement

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard participated in a State Partnership Program (SPP) subject matter expert exchange in Tolemaida, Colombia, Nov. 28-Dec. 4, 2021, to share advice and lessons learned in maintenance planning with Colombian military counterparts. U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Stephen Farmer, 117th Engineer Brigade senior ordnance ground maintenance warrant officer, South Carolina National Guard, and U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Dustin Gunter, 122nd Engineer Battalion, Headquarters and Headquarters Company engineer equipment maintenance warrant officer, South Carolina National Guard, participated in the exchange as part of continued efforts to partner with the Colombian military and exchange information as part of SPP. The South Carolina National Guard and Colombia SPP began in 2012 and since then the countries have conducted numerous joint training and leader engagements to share best practices and develop a strong partnership between the nations.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720216057418>

Santa visits the South Carolina Air National Guard

U.S. Airmen and their families welcome Santa as he arrives on an F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jet, piloted by 1st Lt. Miranda Jones from the 157th Fighter Squadron, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Dec. 4, 2021. Swamp Fox children talked to Santa, played games and enjoyed snacks.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157720212063259>

Retirement ceremony for Staff Sgt. Adam Vidal

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers, guests, and families attended a retirement ceremony for U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Adam R. Vidal, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 59th Aviation Troop Command (ATC), South Carolina National Guard, at the South Carolina National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Dec. 4, 2021. Vidal retired after twenty-one years of military service.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720239436654>

South Carolina National Guard helicopters conduct low-altitude training

A flight of two U.S. Army AH-64 Apache attack helicopters and two U.S. Army UH-60L Black Hawk medium-lift utility helicopters, respectively assigned to the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion and 1-111th General Aviation Support Battalion, 59th Aviation troop Command, South Carolina National Guard, performed low-altitude training in vicinity of Sumter, South Carolina, Dec. 3, 2021. The training was conducted inside a new training area created specifically to provide South Carolina Army National Guard, rated and non-rated crew members with a controlled environment in which safely develop low-altitude piloting, navigation, and combat skills, as well as crew-resource management techniques.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720271661695>

218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade conducts brigade-level Best Warrior Competition

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, participate in the brigade-level Best Warrior Competition held at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, Dec. 3-4, 2021. Soldiers from the 218th MEB competed against one another in a range of physical, mental, and technical events to determine who will represent the brigade at the state-level competition in January 2022.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720210791029> and <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720212788881>

How to solve marriage core issues

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with Mrs. Lisa Mustard, South Carolina National Guard behavioral health office, and Mr. Reese Palmer, licensed marriage and family therapist, about ways to solve marriage core issues and being more observant with yourself

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6Mwae1t8lk>

Top 10 moments in South Carolina Air National Guard history

List of notable achievements and events.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/410779/top-10-moments-south-carolina-air-national-guard-history-1946-2021>

South Carolina National Guard participates in the 2021 Winter Preparation Week kickoff

The South Carolina National Guard participated in the 2021 Winter Preparation Week kickoff, Nov. 30, 2021, at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division in West Columbia, South Carolina.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/410234/south-carolina-national-guard-participates-2021-winter-preparation-week-kickoff>

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.

Skipping: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=itAdJxHqySQ>

Partner assisted ab exercise: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=To_p4mXi_-8

Conditioning and weight training: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h8iQ1KuDZa8>

General conditioning: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ldaBhgYWTdQ>

Preparing for the ACFT: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6PqfpAvP4>

External Media

Gov. McMaster, National Guard honor South Carolina's Gold Star Families

Gov. McMaster and the state's national guard honored South Carolina's Gold Star Families at the State House.

WSPA:

<https://www.wspa.com/news/state-news/gov-mcmaster-national-guard-honor-south-carolinas-gold-star-families/>

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:

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