

Public Affairs Update January 1-February 2, 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.

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

South Carolina National Guard Training, Missions, Current Events:

South Carolina National Guard, UofSC Aiken take next step toward enhancing cyber initiatives in South Carolina

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. R. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina, and Dr. Sandra J. Jordan, University of South Carolina Aiken (UofSC Aiken) chancellor, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) at the UofSC Aiken campus Feb. 1, 2021, in support of the development of a new South Carolina National Guard readiness center with a focus on enhancing cyber initiatives in the state. The readiness center, referred to as a cyber-security DreamPort, is expected to be the home of the South Carolina National Guard's 125th Cyber Battalion, currently headquartered at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina. Constructing the facility on the UofSC Aiken campus allows for the South Carolina National Guard to leverage the academic partnership with UofSC Aiken, as well as utilize the nearby cyber capabilities including the U.S. Army's Cyber Center of Excellence at Fort Gordon, Georgia and the Savannah River National Laboratory's Advanced Manufacturing Collaborative.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718128153867>

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/388093/south-carolina-national-guard-uofsc-aiken-take-next-step-toward-enhancing-cyber-initiatives-south-carolina>

South Carolina National Guard CH47F 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, Feb. 1, 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.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718139113622>

South Carolina National Guard hosts training for security clearance processing

The South Carolina National Guard State Personnel Security Office hosted its first workshop to educate leaders and representatives on how to address derogatory information in the security clearance process, Jan. 27, 2021 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, in order to go through the proper procedures on how to handle each individual packet received on a Soldier or employee.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/387871/south-carolina-national-guard-hosts-training-security-clearance-processing>

South Carolina National Guard supports 59th Presidential Inauguration

Approximately 650 U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard joined service members from other states and territories in the nation's capital to provide support for the 59th Presidential Inauguration, Jan. 20, 2021, in the District of Columbia. The South Carolina National Guard worked in support of the District of Columbia National Guard and local civilian authorities.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/387033/south-carolina-national-guard-supports-59th-presidential-inauguration>

PHA photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717875567468>

Departure photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717899065221>

DC photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717930425998>

Return photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718028344073>

Understanding TRICARE with the South Carolina National Guard

If you need a better understanding of TRICARE, take the next 13 minutes to listen to this podcast - What are you eligible for? How can you check the status of your eligibility? What is TAMP? Don't have time for the full video? Then check out the chapters in the description of the YouTube video and skip directly to the information you are looking for. Still have questions after watching? Contact the TRICARE National Guard helpline: 877-298-3408

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0FAMvMyNZZ8>

Maj. Jessica Charney fini-flight

U.S. Air Force Maj. Jessica Charney, 157th Fighter Squadron pilot, completes her final flight in an F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jet at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Jan. 22, 2021.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157718047265411>

Lt. Col. Paschal promotion to colonel

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Hardy Paschal, South Carolina National Guard state intelligence officer, is promoted to the rank of colonel during a ceremony Jan. 22, 2021, in Columbia, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717999192702>

Discussing H2F with the South Carolina National Guard

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. James Hooten, 125th Cyber Protection Battalion command sergeant major, and Dr. Dan Bornstein, Professor and Director of the Center for Performance, Readiness, Resilience, and Recovery at the Citadel, talks about what holistic health and fitness (H2F) is and how it can benefit service members in the South Carolina National Guard.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-wx6Z3MSIo>

169th Fighter Wing munitions specialists highlighted

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157717986572932>

Lt. Col. Wedekind promotion to colonel

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Lawrence Wedekind, South Carolina National Guard staff judge advocate, is promoted to the rank of colonel during a ceremony Jan. 14, 2021, in Columbia, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717894434342>

108th Chemical Company change of responsibility

The 108th Chemical Company, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, honored U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Benjamin L. Huckaby, Jr., 108th Chemical Company outgoing first sergeant, and welcomed U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class (promotable) Antonio W. Linnen, during the 108th Chemical Company change of responsibility held at the Mark Clark readiness center in North Charleston, South Carolina, Jan. 10, 2021. Huckaby relinquished his command to Linnen after a successful three-year post as first sergeant.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717848204472>

1st Lt. Keesee promoted to captain

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Andrea Keesee, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade liaison officer, South Carolina National Guard, is promoted to the rank of captain during a ceremony held at the Charleston Readiness Center in Charleston, South Carolina, Jan. 10, 2021. Keesee was pinned by her father, Chris Keesee, with U.S. Army Capt. Thaddeus J. Coe, Jr., 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, Headquarters Support Company commander, officiating the ceremony.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717844184768>

Atropia Attack exercise

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers and helicopters of the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion conduct air-ground integrated training with elements and equipment of the 2-151st Aviation Regiment and 351st Aviation Support Battalion in Eastover, South Carolina, Jan. 9, 2021. All three battalions are part of the 59th Aviation Troop Command, South Carolina National Guard. The event focused on convoy-security support, logistic operations, and medical recovery and treatment operations. The convoy consisted of several trucks and specialized vehicles with aviation support-specific capabilities. The air component of the exercise included a total of 10 aircraft: four AH-64D Apaches performing in a combat overwatch and route-clearing role, one CH-47F Chinook, and five UH-60L Black Hawk helicopters providing heavy and medium lift capabilities, respectively.

Sandtable photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717813895917>

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717876046428>

4-118th Combined Arms Battalion change of command ceremony

The 4-118th Combined Arms Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, honored U.S. Army Lt. Col. Joseph B. Bulwinkle, 4-118th Combined Arms Battalion outgoing commander, and welcomed U.S. Army Lt. Col. Brandon T. Pitcher, during the 4-118th Combined Arms Battalion change of command held at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, Jan. 9, 2021. Bulwinkle relinquished his command to Pitcher after a successful nearly five-year post as commander.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717826732206>

South Carolina National Guard participates in new U.S. Army weapons qualification training

The South Carolina National Guard Marksmanship Training Unit conducts training on the new U.S. Army weapons qualification for South Carolina National Guard training non-commissioned officers, Jan. 9, 2021, at Fort Jackson, South Carolina, to become marksmanship master trainers for their units.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T5ONpIBK31Q>

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Marcus promotion to chief warrant officer 5

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Joseph H. Marcus, Jr., 59th Aviation Troop Command, South Carolina Army National Guard, is promoted to the rank of chief warrant officer 5 during a ceremony held at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Jan. 9, 2021. Marcus was pinned by his wife, Darlene, with U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey A. Jones, the Deputy Adjutant General for the South Carolina Military Department, officiating the ceremony.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717829229292>

Lt. Col. Patenaude promotion to colonel

The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), South Carolina National Guard, recognized the promotion of U.S. Army Lt. Col T. Vincent Patenaude to colonel, Jan. 9, 2021 in Anderson, South Carolina. Patenaude was pinned by his family, wife Lindy, daughters Courtney and Mary Katherine and his parents retired U.S. Navy Senior Chief Edgar and Mary Fyke.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717881614082>

169th Maintenance Squadron change of command

The South Carolina Air National Guard's 169th Maintenance Squadron conducts a change of command ceremony on Jan. 8, 2021 with U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. David Bell relinquishing command to Lt. Col. Shawn Daley. Col. Adrian Meyer, 169th Maintenance Group commander, presided over the ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157717790964936>

COVID-19 Response Coverage:

Testing and vaccine site support

The South Carolina National Guard continues to support COVID-19 testing and vaccine sites throughout the state with logistical and administrative support, as well as administering the vaccine in some locations.

Columbia vaccine site: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718076076262> and <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718059925771>

Lexington testing site: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718063957352> and <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717871392716>

Tidelands vaccine support: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718059811471> and <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717779962393>

Lancaster vaccine support: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717901692408>

Chester vaccine support: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717894551482>

Simpsonville testing site: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717873594518>

Seneca testing site: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717869487476>

Mount Pleasant testing site: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717873845568>

South Carolina National Guard surpasses 250,000-mark in COVID-19 testing support

The South Carolina National Guard surpassed the quarter of a million mark in the number of COVID-19 tests conducted at over 829 mobile testing sites since May 2, 2020.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/388143/south-carolina-national-guard-surpasses-250000-mark-covid-19-testing-support>

South Carolina National Guard continues Greenville Harvest Hope Food Bank support

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard support Harvest Hope to process donated food at the Harvest Hope Food Bank in Greenville, South Carolina, Jan. 27, 2021.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718076205293>

South Carolina National Guard increases vaccine locations, assists with 1000 COVID-19 missions

The South Carolina National Guard increased the number of COVID-19 vaccination locations to four sites the week of Jan. 11, 2021 with the addition of the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Lancaster and Chester. The South Carolina National Guard also hit the 1,000 mark in the number of COVID-19 missions they have supported across the state on day 308 of operations.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/387024/south-carolina-national-guard-increases-vaccine-locations-assists-with-1000-covid-19-missions>

South Carolina National Guard continues COVID-19 support, begins vaccinating South Carolina civilians

The South Carolina National Guard today administered 76 COVID-19 vaccines to Palmetto State citizens at the Tidelands Waccamaw Community Hospital in Murrells Inlet, South Carolina. This is the first time the South Carolina National Guard has administered the COVID-19 vaccine to non-military personnel during its 301-day mobilization in support of the state's COVID-19 pandemic efforts. The National Guard's COVID-19 vaccination program is one of several missions the South Carolina National Guard has been engaged in since being mobilized by Governor Henry McMaster in March 2020.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/386561/south-carolina-national-guard-continues-covid-19-support-begins-vaccinating-its-first-south-carolina-civilians>

South Carolina National Guard service members receive COVID-19 vaccine

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to South Carolina National Guard Task Force 59, receive their second COVID-19 Moderna vaccination at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina. The South Carolina National Guard is a Moderna Department of Defense (DoD) vaccine pilot program state and is provided a limited DoD allocation for South Carolina National Guard Soldiers and Airmen to have the opportunity to voluntarily take the vaccine. U.S. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen with the South Carolina National Guard have supported hospitals and other state partners across South Carolina by fulfilling a variety of needs since March 2020.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717976686351> and <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157717749647772>

External Media

SC National Guard increases vaccine locations, assists with 1K COVID-19 missions

ABC4:

<https://abcnews4.com/news/local/sc-national-guard-increases-vaccine-locations-assists-with-1k-covid-19-missions>

South Carolina National Guard helps administer COVID-19 vaccines in SC

News19:

<https://www.wltx.com/article/news/health/coronavirus/south-carolina-national-guard-administer-covid-19-vaccines-to-civilians/101-3dc7b3bf-d61d-42e1-ad3d-26621dc7f6a4>

SC National Guard Soldiers receive 2nd dose of COVID-19 vaccine

ABC4:

<https://abcnews4.com/news/coronavirus/sc-national-guard-soldiers-receive-2nd-dose-of-covid-19-vaccine>

SC National Guard Major General: Now is the 'critical point' in the fight against COVID-19

WIS:

<https://www.wistv.com/2021/01/04/sc-natl-guard-major-general-now-is-critical-point-fight-against-covid-19/>

59th Presidential Inauguration support

Departure:

WYFF:

<https://www.wyff4.com/article/south-carolina-national-guard-heads-to-washington-to-support-presidential-inauguration/35229925#>

CN2: <https://www.cn2.com/the-south-carolina-national-guard-prepares-for-presidential-inauguration/>

WLTX:

<https://www.wltx.com/article/news/politics/sc-national-guard-members-in-dc-for-inauguration-security/101-0902089e-0828-4f89-81e4-e3a91e65a984>

ABC Columbia:

<https://www.abccolumbia.com/2021/01/19/sc-national-guard-members-among-those-protecting-the-capitol-on-inauguration-day/>

Return:

Live5:

<https://www.live5news.com/2021/01/25/south-carolina-national-guard-returns-mount-pleasant-following-dc-deployment/>

ABC4: <https://abcnews4.com/news/local/south-carolina-national-guard-soldiers-return-home-from-dc>

WMBF:

<https://www.wmbfnews.com/2021/01/22/mcmaster-sc-national-guard-troops-returning-home-this-week-end-after-serving-capitol/>

WBTB:

<https://www.wbtv.com/2021/01/26/south-carolina-national-guard-returns-mount-pleasant-following-dc-deployment/>

CountOn2:

<https://www.counton2.com/news/local-news/hundreds-of-sc-national-guard-soldiers-return-to-sc-from-deployment-in-washington-dc/>

**South Carolina National Guard: Rumors of National Guard supporting nationwide lockdown not true
WIS:**

<https://www.wistv.com/2021/01/14/sc-national-guard-rumors-national-guard-supporting-nationwide-lockdown-not-true/>

Pitcher reaches milestone in military career

Post and Courier:

https://www.postandcourier.com/journal-scene/military/pitcher-reaches-milestone-in-military-career/article_c5965faa-5f43-11eb-89b7-4309d42fdc1b.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
Instagram:	@official_scguard	@scairnationalguard
Twitter:	@SCNationalGuard	@theSCANG
Facebook:	South Carolina National Guard	South Carolina Air National Guard
Flickr:	SC National Guard	S.C. Air National Guard
Youtube:	SCNationalGuard	S.C. Air National Guard
DVIDS:	South Carolina National Guard	169th Fighter Wing