

Public Affairs Update March 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.

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

April is recognized as the Month of the Military Child and a time to honor military youth for the important role they play in contributing to the strength of the military family. This past year showed the resiliency of military children in an ever changing environment as we learned to adapt to a new normal during the COVID-19 pandemic.

South Carolina National Guard Training, Missions, Current Events:

South Carolina National Guard talks Women's History Month

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Felicia Penn, U.S. Army 1st Lt. Briana Yancey, and retired U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Darlene Goff about Women's History Month and the evolution of women in the military.

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RfyDcel9wyM>

South Carolina National Guard assists with cybersecurity readiness

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 125th Cyber Protection Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, partnering with South Carolina Enforcement Division's South Carolina Critical Infrastructure Cybersecurity (SC-CIC), assisted the city of Beaufort and other surrounding organizations at the Beaufort Police Department training facility March 24, 2021, in the city's first practical cyber exercise consisting of regional leaders developing a plan to respond to cyber threats and attacks.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/392243/south-carolina-national-guard-assists-with-cybersecurity-readiness>

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718771001172>

Guard members excel in All Army Marksmanship Championships

Army and Air National Guardsmen from across the country traveled to Fort Benning to participate in the 2021 U.S. Army "All Army" Small Arms Championships March 14-20.

Story:

https://www.army.mil/article/244550/guardsmen_excel_in_all_army_marksmanship_championships

South Carolina National Guard conducts memorial service in honor of Staff Sgt. Dillon Bennett

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard conduct a memorial ceremony at the South Carolina Army National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility in Greenville, South Carolina, March 19, 2021, honoring the service, life, and legacy of U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Dillon J. Bennett. From 2008 through mid 2019, Bennett served with multiple units within 59th Aviation Troop Command, South Carolina Army National Guard, with deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan. In mid 2019 Bennett joined Recruiting and Retention Command, South Carolina Army National Guard.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718757358123>

Personnel security talks security clearances with the South Carolina National Guard

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with U.S. Army Sgt. Tiffany Mullen, and U.S. Army Sgt. Danielle Hall, South Carolina National Guard personnel security representatives, about suitability and fitness pertaining to security clearances.

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IcriLCqkkCs&t=477s>

228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade conducts antenna training

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade practice setting up a 15-meter antenna, March 14, 2021, in Hodges, South Carolina, in preparation for annual training scheduled this summer.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718667443888>

125th Multi-Role Bridging Company training on new Inflatable Combat Assault Craft

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 125th Multi-Role Bridging Company, South Carolina National Guard, conduct training on their newest Inflatable Combat Assault Craft (I-CAC), more commonly known as a Zodiac, to familiarize their Soldiers with the functionality of the multi-fuel engine and the handling of the 15-passenger craft during drill weekend March 13, 2021 at Clarks Hill Training Center in Plum Branch, South Carolina. The new Zodiacs will allow the unit to operate in a variety of theaters to better support state and national defense security missions and homeland emergency response missions.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718653805116>

Mental health resources with the South Carolina National Guard

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with Mrs. Lisa Mustard, South Carolina National Guard behavioral health office, about different mental health resources service members and their families can access.

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zZhlcLB82K8&t=1682s>

43rd Civil Support Team conducts validation lanes

U.S. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen with the 43rd Civil Support Team, South Carolina National Guard, conduct validation lanes March 11, 2021 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. The training consisted of conducting Collective Lanes Training such as site survey training for the detection of chemical threats, and decontamination as part of their annual evaluation by U.S. Army North.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718620647562>

218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade conducts memorial ceremony in honor of Spc. James Harrelson

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with 111th Signal Company, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, conduct a memorial ceremony honoring the life and service of U.S. Army Spc. James D. Harrelson II. The ceremony served as an opportunity for unit members to recognize and honor Harrelson's service, and share with his family his life as a Soldier while serving in the 111th Signal Company.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718582330543>

218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade conducts awards ceremony

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Headquarters Support Company, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina Army National Guard, conduct an awards ceremony at the Charleston Readiness Center in Charleston, South Carolina, March 7, 2021.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718579910706>

McEntire Joint National Guard Base holds legislative day for congressional, state leaders and staff

Three members of Congress, South Carolina's Lieutenant Governor, members of the South Carolina Legislature plus senior congressional staff spent March 5, 2021 with leaders of the South Carolina Military Department at McEntire Joint National Guard Base (JNGB), South Carolina. The purpose of the visit was to highlight the capabilities of McEntire JNGB for federal and state response as well as the benefits McEntire JNGB provides to the citizens of South Carolina.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/390944/mcentire-joint-national-guard-base-holds-legislative-day-congressional-state-leaders-and-staff>

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157718555494246>

South Carolina National Guard conducts state-level Best Warrior Competition

The South Carolina National Guard conducted the state-level Best Warrior Competition at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, March 1-5, 2020, to identify the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year and Soldier of the Year. The competitors included U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers from units throughout the South Carolina National Guard. The Soldiers were challenged and tested on events to include the interviews, exams, essays, ruck march, obstacle course, weapons qualification, land navigation, and general Soldier skills. The NCO of the Year and Soldier of the Year for the South Carolina National Guard will go on to compete at the regional-level competition for region III, later this year.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gn2TSJEToUc>

Ceremony photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718537469772>

Non-Commissioned Officer of the Year story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/390745/south-carolina-national-guard-recognizes-2021-non-commissioned-officer-year>

Soldier of the Year story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/390744/south-carolina-national-guard-recognizes-2021-soldier-year>

Day 1 photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718488617787>

Day 2 photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718499190922>

Day 3 photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718510732056>

Day 4 photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718522614578>

Day 5 photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718542674728>

South Carolina National Guard conducts Enlisted Hall of Fame induction ceremony

The South Carolina National Guard conducted the Enlisted Hall of Fame induction ceremony at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, March 5, 2021, to recognize the 2021 inductees. The 2021 inductees included retired U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jewell McCullough, retired U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Shepherd, retired U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Preston Gee, Jr., and retired U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. William Bryant. Induction into the South Carolina National Guard Enlisted Hall of Fame is an honor for senior non-commissioned officers who have gone above and beyond in performance of their duties.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718534944323>

Command Sgt. Maj. Preston Gee, Jr:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/390740/south-carolina-national-guard-retiree-camden-resident-inducted-enlisted-hall-fame>

Command Sgt. Maj. William Bryant:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/390739/south-carolina-national-guard-retiree-aiken-resident-inducted-enlisted-hall-fame>

Command Chief Master Sgt. Stephen Shepherd:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/390737/south-carolina-national-guard-retiree-irmo-resident-inducted-enlisted-hall-fame>

Command Sgt. Maj. Jewell McCullough:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/390736/south-carolina-national-guard-retiree-ware-shoals-resident-inducted-enlisted-hall-fame>

Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen exercise

U.S. Air National Guard Airmen with the South Carolina Air National Guard conducted a Single Pallet Expeditionary Kitchen (SPEK) exercise at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, March 5, 2021. The purpose of the SPEK exercise is to supply valuable training to South Carolina Air National Guard members while utilizing a mobile kitchen that can be operated in a deployed environment.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157718565103667>

South Carolina National Guard visits young supporter at hospital

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers from 4-118th Combined Arms Battalion (CAB) and 151st Expeditionary Signal Battalion (ESB), South Carolina National Guard, visit Ruth Anna Coker, a young supporter of the South Carolina National Guard who is currently a patient of the Greenville Memorial Hospital in Greenville, South Carolina, March 4, 2021. The Soldiers met in one of the hospital's parking lots and wished Ruth Anna a quick recovery from an ongoing medical condition. While current COVID-19 policies on social distancing forced Ruth Anna to wave at the Soldiers from a window of the hospital, balloons and uplifting items were delivered to her through her mom. Over the last couple years, Ruth Anna and her family showed their support to several South Carolina National Guard units by sending a variety of care packages to deployed Soldiers around the world. Ms. Scottie Cross, South Carolina National Guard Family Programs, organized the event and ensured proper coordination between the hospital, the Coker family, and the South Carolina National Guard service members.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718521252341>

Active shooter exercise at McEntire Joint National Guard Base

169th Fighter Wing Security Forces defenders team up with local law enforcement officers from the Richland County Sheriff's Department Special Response Team (SRT) to conduct inter-agency active-shooter training at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, March 2, 2021. UH-60 Black Hawk medium-lift utility helicopters from the South Carolina National Guard's Company A, 1-111st Aviation Battalion, transported the SRT to join U.S. Air Force base defenders to engage active-shooter exercise threats, demonstrating quick response capabilities.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157718586201041>

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:

Winnsboro vaccination site:

<https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718821154108/with/51086842406/>

Myrtle Beach vaccination site: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718562268375>

Allendale vaccination site: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718757881876>

Prosperity vaccination site: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718745485416>

McEntire vaccination site: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718709574322> and

<https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718668885246> and

<https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718611217003> and

<https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718595468591>

Columbia vaccination site: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718631695521> and

<https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718595432716> and

<https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718540020391>

Sumter vaccination site: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718623541938>

Marlboro vaccination site: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718621801077>

Hartsville testing site: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157718485998168>

South Carolina National Guard marks 1-year activation in support of COVID-19 response efforts

The South Carolina National Guard has been activated in support of COVID-19 response efforts in the state since March 13, 2020 and remains ready to support the counties, state and local agencies, and first responders with resources for as long as needed.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BnXsM0mydtM>

South Carolina National Guard administers more than 52,000 COVID-19 vaccines to citizens of South Carolina

The South Carolina National Guard has administered more than 52,000 vaccinations to civilians at 80 different sites across South Carolina since Jan. 7, 2021.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/391873/south-carolina-national-guard-administers-more-than-52000-covid-19-vaccines-citizens-south-carolina>

South Carolina National Guard Soldiers serve on the frontlines fighting against COVID-19

For nearly a year, U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard have served in their communities, filling a variety of roles during the COVID-19 pandemic in both military and civilian capacities to meet the needs of the citizens. U.S. Army Pfc. Kaila Diggs, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 51st Military Police Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, is one of these South Carolinians who serve their state and community as a citizen-Soldier. Like many other South Carolina National Guard Soldiers, Diggs has been on the frontlines supporting medical personnel and other emergency responders in the fight against COVID-19.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/390162/south-carolina-national-guard-soldiers-serve-frontlines-fighting-against-covid-19>

External Media

SC National Guard displays Apache helicopter on UofSC's campus

A military helicopter touched down on the University of South Carolina's campus Thursday afternoon. UofSC's ROTC program, in partnership with the South Carolina National Guard, displayed an Apache Helicopter at Blatt Field.

ABC Columbia:

<https://www.abccolumbia.com/2021/03/25/sc-national-guard-displays-apache-helicopter-on-uof-scs-campus/>

USC Aiken, National Guard teaming up for cyber readiness center

As the city of Augusta finds itself in the national spotlight for its growing cyber influence, South Carolina is working to keep pace and complement its neighbors. And now, a multimillion-dollar investment could create even more digital opportunities across the region. The next major piece of the cyber puzzle could soon be on the campus of USC Aiken.

"Aiken County is a county that we feel very positive about," said Maj. General Van McCarty of the South Carolina National Guard. "It's got a good demographic base in terms of the numbers of recruitable men and women. It's got a good, sound public school system and it offers us some unique opportunities for us."

McCarty says the National Guard wants to have the \$30 million investment ready to go by 2024, if they can secure the necessary state funding. Setting up shop in Aiken gives them a premium location between Fort Gordon and the guard's headquarters in Columbia.

FOX 54:

<https://www.wfxg.com/story/43453915/usc-aiken-national-guard-teaming-up-for-cyber-readiness-center>

SC National Guard administers more than 52K COVID-19 vaccines

The South Carolina National Guard is celebrating a new milestone in its one-year mobilization in support of the state's COVID-19 pandemic efforts. The National Guard announced Friday they have administered more than 52,000 vaccinations to civilians at 80 different sites across South Carolina since the beginning of January.

ABC 15:

<https://wpde.com/news/local/sc-national-guard-administers-more-than-52k-covid-19-vaccines>

WMBF News:

<https://www.wmbfnews.com/2021/03/19/sc-national-guard-administers-over-k-covid-vaccines-residents/>

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:

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DVIDS:	South Carolina National Guard	169th Fighter Wing