

Public Affairs Update May 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.scgard.ng.mil/Portals/45/Documents/annual%20reports/Annual%20Report%202020.pdf?ver=xZKjG_hQx_wl_Sot2WUB8Q%3d%3d

In honor of Memorial Day, remember the heroes who deployed in support of combat operations since Sept. 11, 2001 and paid the ultimate price: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719192384452>

South Carolina National Guard Training, Missions, Current Events:

Health and Wellness workouts

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

How to deadlift: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ONztyB1vQpo>

Goblet squat: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=b2B3jvhAXEQ>

Standing power throw: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=15KxD3Qbt2A>

South Carolina National Guard safety message

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Adrian Priester, South Carolina National Guard deputy state safety officer, gives a Memorial Day weekend safety message to the Soldiers and Airmen of the South Carolina National Guard.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wWzYCh1pmEc>

678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade conducts deployment ceremony

The 678th Air Defense Artillery, South Carolina National Guard, hosts a deployment ceremony for U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 678th Air Defense Artillery, Task Force Veritas, May 26, 2021 in Eastover, South Carolina. Task Force Veritas will provide mission command to the homeland defense mission as part of Operation Noble Eagle. Task Force efforts to protect the National Capital Region include the use of radar, ground based air defense systems, and communications equipment.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719329812707>

South Carolina National Guard continues COVID-19 response efforts

The South Carolina National Guard was activated in support of COVID-19 response efforts in the state March 13, 2020. The Soldiers and Airmen remain ready to support the counties, local and state agencies and first responders with requested resources for as long as needed.

Video:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/video/796307/south-carolina-national-guard-continues-covid-19-response-efforts>

Maj. Gen. McCarty speaks at Florence Rotary Club meeting

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty gave a presentation to the Florence Rotary Club, May 24, 2021, in Florence South Carolina, about the current status of the South Carolina National Guard.

Photo: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719318843044>

South Carolina National Guard talks about the ABCs of anger

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with licensed professional counselor and former service member Eric Beasley, MA LPC, NCC, about strategies of preventing and managing anger.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5plvQSNQGM>

South Carolina National Guard conducts joint training with South Carolina Forestry Commission

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard use UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters to assist with firefighting and rescue training during a joint exercise with elements of South Carolina Task Force Rescue 1 and the South Carolina Forestry Commission at Keowee Toxaway State Park in Oconee County, South Carolina, May 18-19, 2021. The purpose of the event was to consolidate interagency relationships and procedures in firefighting, air operations, and aircraft deconfliction, as well as perform currency training for ground personnel and air crews alike.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719247687068>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4OKGWu32RWc>

678th Air Defense Artillery Brigade holds uncasing ceremony

The 678th Air Defense Artillery (ADA) Brigade, South Carolina Army National Guard, held an uncasing of the colors ceremony in Eastover, South Carolina, May 16, 2021. The uncasing of the colors is a military tradition signifying the relocation of the command headquarters, in this case, with the unit's return from deployment.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/396610/678th-air-defense-artillery-brigade-conducts-uncasing-ceremony>

Col. Fidler conducts final flight in AH64

U.S. Army Col. James Fidler, 59th Aviation Troop Command commander, South Carolina Army National Guard, completes his final flight aboard an AH-64D Apache helicopter at the South Carolina Army National Guard Army Aviation Support Facility (Location 1) at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, May 15, 2021. Family, friends, and colleagues attended the event and celebrated Fidler's final flight as a military pilot. U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina, and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jeff Jones, deputy adjutant general for the South Carolina Military Department, joined the 59th Aviation Troop Command leadership to celebrate Fidler's career and accomplishments. In early June, Fidler will relinquish command of the 59th ATC to U.S. Army Col. John McElveen and will continue serving the U.S. Army in an administrative and counseling capacity at Fort Jackson, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719256592760>

National Guard, partners to conduct ORCA 21 CBRNE exercise

National Guard Civil Support Team units from twelve states, along with partnering local, state, and federal agencies and organizations, totaling approximately 250 people, participated in Exercise ORCA 2021 at various training locations in Anchorage, Matanuska-Susitna Valley, and Seward, May 17-20. Exercise ORCA 2021 was designed to allow all participants to respond to hazardous materials incidents, test interoperability between the agencies, increase working relationships, and practice requests for assistance methods.

Story:

https://www.army.mil/article/246382/national_guard_partners_to_conduct_orca_21_cbrne_exercise

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KS1zhFWVv6A>

157th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron conducts operations in Saudi Arabia

The 157th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron is deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to project combat power and help bolster defensive capabilities against potential threats in the region.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719333711205>

South Carolina National Guard conducts CH47 gunnery

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Det. 1 Company B, 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, complete their gunnery training, with a CH-47F Chinook helicopter at Poinsett Range Complex, South Carolina, May 10, 2021. The training included, both day and night, live-fire tables focused on safety, accuracy, and crew coordination. This type of training is critical to the combat mission of the unit. The helicopter serves the South Carolina National Guard's dual mission as a medium-heavy cargo platform, unarmed during disaster relief operations, as well as armed when deployed abroad in support of combat operations. Typically, each CH-47F can be equipped with either two or three M-240 machine guns, as well as electronic countermeasures packages specific to the theater of operation. Throughout the past twenty years, Det. 1 Company B has deployed multiple times to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and has been a major asset to the South Carolina Emergency Management Division in response to a variety of stateside emergencies like hurricanes, wildfires, and the flood in 2015.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719214440905>

Warrant officer pinning ceremony

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard are pinned as warrant officers, May 8, 2021, in Columbia, South Carolina, after graduating from the Reserve Component Warrant Officer Candidate School. South Carolina National Guard graduates pinned include; U.S. Army Warrant Officer Nathaniel Reitz, U.S. Army Warrant Officer Travis Bowers, and U.S. Army Warrant Officer Richard Miller. U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ivan McFarlan, II, has elected to defer his appointment to a later date. These Soldiers have successfully completed a six-month program through the Palmetto Military Academy, 218th Regional Training Institute, South Carolina National Guard, in the instruction of becoming a warrant officer. Warrant officers in the U.S. Army are technical subject matter experts in their chosen career field. Their duties and responsibilities are important to the overall readiness of the unit to meet and maintain mission requirements.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719137423982>

South Carolina National Guard talks about mental health awareness month

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian, we talk with U.S. Army 1st Lt. Tremaine Shivers, South Carolina National Guard Resilience and Risk Reduction specialist, about May being Mental Health Awareness Month and resources out there for service members and their families.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V4aKGHMDBVk>

South Carolina National Guard prepares for transition back to residential Basic Leader Course

The South Carolina National Guard prepares its Basic Leader Course (BLC) at the 218th Regional Training Institute (RTI) at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, to transition from virtual classes back to residential courses in the upcoming fiscal year.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/395414/south-carolina-national-guard-prepares-transition-back-residential-basic-leader-course>

1050th Transportation Battalion conducts change of command

The 1050th Transportation Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, conducted a change of command ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, May 2, 2021, to recognize the outgoing commander, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Denton W. Smith, and welcome the incoming commander, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Rudy E. Crumpton, Jr. The battalion was formed in 2008 and was federally recognized in April 2009. The battalion's mission is to conduct motor transport operations and provide transportation support to units across the state.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719132112675>

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/395460/south-carolina-national-guard-announces-next-1050th-transportation-battalion-commander>

South Carolina National Guard members run Lincoln Marathon

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard joined 200 National Guard runners representing 42 states and territories in Lincoln, Nebraska to compete for a spot on the All Guard Marathon Team, May 2, 2021. U.S. Army Col. Ryan Price, U.S. Army Lt. Col. Brad Marlow, and U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Kenneth Culbertson represented the South Carolina National Guard, with Price and Marlow making the All Guard Team.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719107311366/with/51159272077/>

McEntire Joint National Guard Base continues construction on fire department

Ongoing construction of an expanded and upgraded Fire Department at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, May 2, 2021.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719095844073/with/51158623278/>

1-178th Field Artillery conducts live-fire exercise

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1-178th Field Artillery Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, conduct a live fire training exercise May 1, 2021, at Fort Stewart, Georgia. The training consisted of artillery firing tables and direct fire lanes during their annual training. The unit is required to successfully accomplish all tables in order to be fully mission capable and ready to deploy.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719133951640>

South Carolina National Guard assists Saluda COVID-19 vaccination site

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard set up canopies and direct traffic at a COVID-19 vaccination site, May 1, 2021, in Saluda, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719069200173>

External Media

The Dude's service member of the week: U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Dayne Peterson

CMSgt Dayne E. Peterson is the Command Chief Master Sergeant for the 169th Fighter Wing, McEntire Joint National Guard Base, in Eastover. As command chief, he serves as the principal advisor to the Wing Commander on matters of readiness, health, welfare and morale, professional development, and the effective utilization of more than 1100 enlisted personnel assigned to the South Carolina Air National Guard.

Story:

https://www.coladaily.com/communities/columbia/94-3-the-dudes-soldier-of-the-week-us-air-force-cmsgt-dayne-peterson/article_02aa9600-c22b-11eb-a08c-b76aa609613d.html

Measure seeks to bolster National Guard cybersecurity

The National Guard Cybersecurity Support Act would enhance states' readiness and responsiveness while facing increasing cybersecurity attacks potentially impacting agencies such as the departments of motor vehicles, the administration of elections, and the distribution of critical state aid.

Story:

<https://homelandprepnews.com/stories/68003-measure-seeks-to-bolster-national-guard-cybersecurity/>

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