

Public Affairs Update November 1-30, 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:

Holiday message with Chaplain Darden

U.S. Army Chaplain (Col.) Norris D. Darden, South Carolina National Guard senior state chaplain, provides a holiday message to all members of the South Carolina Military Department.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M7NJtDn9Ls>

South Carolina National Guard participates in Winter Weather Prep Week

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.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720195218939>

Story:

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

Education minute with the South Carolina Education Office

What is Joint Services Transcript: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iGc6hfSeXBQ>

How to sign up for Army personnel testing: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o8FHjfUVOyU>

What is the post 9/11 GI Bill: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HSMrAKyoOKQ>

What is the Montgomery GI Bill: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BIVJFkmzIBo>

How to apply for student loan repayment: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tu220uMDnF8>

Qualifying for enlistment/reenlistment bonuses:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8DMYZ_shCjE

What is the college assistance program: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=32UJ_gCKa2M

218th Regional Training Institute conducts combat engineer 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. The class is made up of National Guard Soldiers from multiple states and was conducted November 6-20, 2021. Throughout the 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/72157720151969464> and

<https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720151942929>

Brig. Gen. Boris Armstrong retirement

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Boris Armstrong, Chief of Staff, South Carolina Air National Guard, was celebrated by fellow members of the South Carolina National Guard, family and friends during his retirement ceremony from the South Carolina Air National Guard at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Nov. 13, 2021.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157720149560588>

169th Civil Engineer Squadron change of command ceremony

The 169th Civil Engineer Squadron conducts a change of command ceremony, Nov. 13, 2021 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, in which out-going commander, U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Richard Smith relinquished his command to Lt. Col. Gareth Fleischer.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157720191153440>

Chief Master Sgt. Alex Gross promotion ceremony

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Alex Gross, 169th Mission Support Group senior enlisted leader, was promoted Nov. 13, 2021 during a ceremony held at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157720151797544>

South Carolina National Guard participates in Columbia Veterans Day parade

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard participated in the annual Veterans Day parade Nov. 11, 2021 in Columbia, South Carolina. The South Carolina National Guard provided a Stryker from the 108th Chemical Company, a M109 Paladin from the 1-178th Field Artillery Battalion, a M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicle from the 4-118th Combined Arms Battalion, a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle from the 122nd Engineer Battalion, and a High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle from the 132nd Military Police Company, which led the parade with U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina, who served as the Grand Marshal. The South Carolina National Guard is a community-based organization and participates in community events to bring visibility to the Soldiers, Airmen, and capabilities of the organization.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720142589462>

Mentorship panel with The Citadel

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard, along with U.S. Army active duty Soldiers, conduct a mentorship panel consisting of female Army officers at The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina, Nov. 9, 2021, to answer questions from Army ROTC cadets about Army professions.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720138862582>

Lt. Col. James Robinson promotion to colonel

U.S. Army Lt. Col. James O. Robinson, South Carolina National Guard United States Property and Fiscal Office (USPFO) deputy director, is promoted to the rank of colonel during a ceremony Nov. 7, 2021, at the Bluff Road armory in Columbia, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720120163091>

124th Engineer Company conducts Meritorious Unit Commendation award ceremony

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 124th Engineer Company, South Carolina National Guard, conduct a ceremony awarding the unit the Army Meritorious Unit Commendation award Nov. 7, 2021 in Saluda, South Carolina. The 124th earned the unit award for their work during their deployment to Kuwait from July 2019 to June 2020. While there, the Soldiers of the 124th provided force protection and base support across multiple locations within Kuwait, Iraq, and Syria. The unit's combined efforts resulted in 550 feet of ditch cuts, installation of more than 530 bunkers, placement of more than 5,900 feet of concertina wire, placement and fill of over 9.800 linear feet of HESCO barriers, more than 229,700 square feet of earth graded and the cut, stockpile, load, haul and dump of more than 90,400 cubic yards of earth and gravel.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720117786934>

263rd AAMDC conducts change of command ceremony

The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), South Carolina National Guard, conducted a change of command ceremony to recognize the outgoing commander, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy Sheriff, and welcome the incoming, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Frank Rice, Nov. 6, 2021, in Anderson, South Carolina.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720184877975>

263rd AAMDC conducts change of responsibility ceremony

The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), South Carolina National Guard, conducted a change of responsibility ceremony to recognize the outgoing command sergeant major, U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Phillips, and welcome the incoming, U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Davin Powell, Nov. 6, 2021, in Anderson, South Carolina. In attendance were U.S. Army Maj. Gen. R. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Sheriff, 263rd AAMDC outgoing commander, and U.S. Army Brig. Gen. (promotable) Frank M. Rice, 263rd AAMDC incoming commander.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720184842365>

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/408995/263rd-army-air-and-missile-defense-command-conduct-s-change-responsibility>

Brig. Gen. Frank Rice promotion to major general

The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), South Carolina National Guard, recognized the promotion of U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Frank M. Rice to major general, Nov. 6, 2021 in Anderson, South Carolina. Rice was pinned by U.S. Army Maj. Gen. R. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina. After the promotion ceremony, Rice assumed command of the 263rd AAMDC.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720135673431>

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/409091/263rd-army-air-and-missile-defense-command-promotes-maj-gen-rice>

Col. Richard Wholey promotion to brigadier general

The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), South Carolina National Guard, recognized the promotion of U.S. Army Col. Richard A. Wholey Jr. to brigadier general, Nov. 6, 2021 in Anderson, South Carolina. Wholey was pinned by his wife Marilyn, son Trey, parents Richard and Sharon and will be assigned as the deputy commander of the 263rd AAMDC. In attendance were U.S. Army Maj. Gen R. Van McCarty, adjutant General for South Carolina, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jeffrey Jones, deputy adjutant general of South Carolina, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy J. Sheriff, 263rd AAMDC former commander, and U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Frank M. Rice, 263rd AAMDC current commander.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720184935155>

South Carolina National Guard medics immunize Soldiers

U.S. Army National Guard medical personnel with the South Carolina National Guard immunize U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard during a COVID-19 and influenza vaccination site, Nov. 6, 2021, in the Combat Simulation Center at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina. The South Carolina National Guard continues to ensure Soldier readiness in preparation to support local, state and federal governments and agencies.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720166351425>

South Carolina National Guard McCrady Training Center firefighters place first in bodybuilding competition:

Strength, grit, and resiliency are just some of the many qualities needed to be a firefighter. These same qualities are also what it takes to participate in an intense competition that puts these same qualities to the test. South Carolina National Guard McCrady Training Center firefighters Josh White and Shirley Morgan harnessed these same qualities and placed first in their first bodybuilding competitions in April and June 2021.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/408459/south-carolina-national-guard-mccrady-training-center-firefighters-place-first-bodybuilding-competition>

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.

Hight crunch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EmUPhSsSggA>

Superman: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_Li52iC5d0s

Half-kneeling dumbbell woodchop: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9Uz_Gfzcgkw

Rower: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8vdt3pctRTE>

External Media

94.3 The Dude's soldier of the week: SSG Matthew Helm

Staff Sergeant Matthew Helm has served in the South Carolina National Guard for 10 years and is looking to go full-time in the Army for the next three years.

Cola Daily:

https://www.coladaily.com/communities/columbia/94-3-the-dudes-soldier-of-the-week-ssg-matt-hew-helm/article_c4ce9674-40a1-11ec-9648-cbbcde3b61a3.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.

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:	<u>@official_scguard</u>	<u>@scairnationalguard</u>
Twitter:	<u>@SCNationalGuard</u>	<u>@theSCANG</u>
Facebook:	<u>South Carolina National Guard</u>	<u>South Carolina Air National Guard</u>
Flickr:	<u>SC National Guard</u>	<u>S.C. Air National Guard</u>
Youtube:	<u>SCNationalGuard</u>	<u>S.C. Air National Guard</u>
DVIDS:	<u>South Carolina National Guard</u>	<u>169th Fighter Wing</u>