

Public Affairs Update October 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:

The adjutant general addresses COVID-19 vaccine mandate for the South Carolina National Guard

On Aug. 24, 2021, Department of Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin, III mandated that all service members be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Following this order, the U.S. Army and U.S. Air Force finalized the deadlines for all Soldiers and Airmen to be vaccinated, to include active duty, Reserve, and National Guard. All South Carolina National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are expected to begin getting the vaccine as soon as possible. South Carolina Air National Guard Airmen have until Dec. 2, 2021 to be fully vaccinated. The U.S. Army's timeline gives Soldiers until June 30, 2022 to be fully vaccinated; however, it is my intent for all South Carolina Army National Guard Soldiers to be vaccinated no later than April 30, 2022.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zDGIU4ioBRU>

South Carolina National Guard expands training area for rotary wing aircraft

The South Carolina National Guard recently expanded the flight area used for training for rotary wing aircraft in order to provide a more efficient and controlled environment for pilots to conduct low-altitude training.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/408307/south-carolina-national-guard-expands-training-area-rotary-wing-aircraft>

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720106491102>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wpB3kEZkvGM>

Month of the Military Family with Service Member and Family Care

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with Audra Harmon, South Carolina National Guard Service Member Family Care Soldier Family Readiness Specialist Lead, and U.S. Army Master Sgt. Eric Gallman, Service Member Family Care senior enlisted advisor, about November being the Month of the Military Family and resources that are out there, as well as events going on throughout the month to celebrate.

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kBHbTV9kNjw>

South Carolina National Guard, ESGR conducts Boss Lift

The South Carolina National Guard and the Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) hosted a Boss Lift event, Oct. 29, 2021, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, showcasing the South Carolina National Guard, 59th Aviation Troop Command's various aircraft and capabilities to civilian employers. The event allowed civilian employers of service members to gain a perspective into the military side of their employee's life by learning about military training, night vision, viewing equipment layout, controlling an AH-64 Apache simulator, and riding a UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720095530532>

263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command outgoing commander addresses troops, says his farewell

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 263rd Army and Air Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), South Carolina National Guard, assembled as U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy Sheriff, 263rd AAMDC commander, addressed the unit for the last time as the commander, Oct. 23, 2021, in Anderson, South Carolina. During his address, Sheriff highlighted the historical components of the 263rd AAMDC, upcoming changes within the command structure, and his deep admiration for his time serving within the 263rd AAMDC.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/408039/263rd-army-air-and-missile-defense-command-outgoing-commander-address-troops-says-his-farewell>

Mental health awareness with Chief Master Sgt. Caldwell

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Camille Caldwell, South Carolina National Guard state command senior enlisted leader, about her new appointed position and her goals to break the stigma of mental health and how to integrate Soldiers and Airmen together.

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=80nlr39qrC4>

228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade conducts change of command ceremony

The 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, conducted a change of command ceremony Oct. 17, 2021, at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, to recognize the outgoing commander and welcome the incoming.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/408073/228th-theater-tactical-signal-brigade-conducts-change-command-ceremony>

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720109247840>

Promotion ceremony for Col. Christopher Schwendimann

U.S. Army Lt. Col. Christopher W. Schwendimann, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment (HHD), 59th Aviation Troop Command (ATC), South Carolina National Guard, is promoted to the rank of colonel, during an informal ceremony at HHD, 59th ATC, McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, October 17, 2021. U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina, U.S. Army Col. John W. McElveen, the State Army Aviation Officer for South Carolina, as well as some staff members of 59th ATC, attended the ceremony.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720074222023>

111th Signal Company conducts change of command ceremony

The 111th Signal Company, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, honored U.S. Army Capt. Gregory A. Harris, 111th Signal Company outgoing commander, and welcomed U.S. Army Capt. Robert G. Jamison, during the 111th Signal Company change of command held at the Charleston Readiness Center in Charleston, South Carolina, Oct. 17, 2021. Harris relinquished his command to Jamison after a successful three-year post as commander.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720048626892>

Retirement ceremony for Col. David Gayl

U.S. Army Col. David Gayle, previous director of Joint Operations (J3) for the South Carolina National Guard, talks about his military career and thanks current and former service members, friends, and family during a retirement ceremony, Oct. 17, 2021, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, after more than 30 years of service to the South Carolina National Guard.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720035122831>

Retirement ceremony for Sgt. Maj. Andrew Henderson

U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Andrew Henderson, J2 Senior Enlisted Advisor, South Carolina National Guard, was recognized for his service and leadership at a retirement ceremony, Oct. 17, 2021, in Columbia, South Carolina. Henderson is retiring after 35 years of service, six to the United States Marine Corps and 29 to the South Carolina National Guard. Henderson has served as the J2 Senior Enlisted Advisor since 2015 and is the first Soldier ever to hold the position in the state's history. He has deployed 7 times and has served in diverse roles with a variety of units within the South Carolina National Guard. He has earned numerous awards and medals to include the Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Army Commendation Medal, and Marine Corps Expeditionary Medal. Col. Kelvin Brown, USPFO for South Carolina Army National Guard, hosted the ceremony and Henderson's family was also recognized for their parts in supporting his career.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720041460272>

218th MEB 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, Oct. 17, 2021.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720036405333>

South Carolina National Guard service members receive COVID-19 vaccination

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard receive the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccination, Oct. 16, 2021, during an individual Medical Readiness Exercise at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina. The South Carolina National Guard continues to focus on Soldier readiness to be ready to support state and local agencies, and first responders when needed.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720024062009>

South Carolina National Guard support airdrop training event

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to Det. 1 Company B, 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, supported an airdrop training-event with a CH-47 Chinook helicopter in the Fort Bragg area, North Carolina, Oct. 15, 2021. The event included several airborne jumps, as well as light cargo drops.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720050769256>

Promotion ceremony for Col. William Medlin

U.S. Army Lt. Col. William Medlin, South Carolina National Guard, is promoted to colonel during a ceremony Oct. 15, 2021 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina. Medlin previously served as the commander of the 125th Cyber Protection Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, and currently serves as the Cyber Center of Excellence Chief of Staff for Army National Guard Affairs. He enlisted into the South Carolina National Guard in 1988 as a flight medic, and received his commission in 1996.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157720018166773>

South Carolina National Guard reopens Service Member and Family Care Support Center in Orangeburg

The South Carolina National Guard reopened the Service Member and Family Care Support Center located at 1645 Stonewall Jackson Blvd in Orangeburg, Oct. 11, 2021. This location was closed due to manpower shortages over 6 months ago and has returned to normal operations while continuing to comply with local pandemic safety precautions.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/407315/south-carolina-national-guard-reopens-service-member-and-family-care-support-center-orangeburg>

South Carolina National Guard supports Big Red Barn military event

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 132nd Military Police Company, 51st Military Police Battalion, 59th Troop Command, South Carolina National Guard, presented the colors during the Big Red Barn Retreat Fall Jam at the Ballpark in Columbia, South Carolina, Oct. 9, 2021. The color guard detail included U.S. Army Spc. Kyle Wissinger, U.S. Army Spc. Douglas Mackay, U.S. Army Spc. Hunter Blackmon, and U.S. Army Spc. Hailey Sikes. The South Carolina National Guard is a community-based organization and participates in community events to bring visibility to the service members and the capabilities of the organization.

Photo: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719995074071>

South Carolina National Guard talks about boosting mental health

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with Mrs. Lisa Mustard, South Carolina National Guard behavioral health office, about ways to boost your mental health without contacting a counselor.

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hSOTIjI8Y6s>

South Carolina National Guard recognizes Hispanic Heritage Month

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard celebrated National Hispanic Heritage Month with a special observance Oct. 6, 2021 at the National Guard Armory in Columbia, South Carolina. Attendees were provided food from various Hispanic regions and were presented music, art, history, and culture as part of the celebration. The National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated each year from Sept. 15 to Oct. 15.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719973155056>

Retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Aubrey Boatwright

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Aubrey Boatwright, 169th Logistics Readiness Squadron, is celebrated by fellow members of the South Carolina Air National Guard, family and friends during her retirement ceremony from the South Carolina Air National Guard at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Oct. 3, 2021.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157720100185985>

South Carolina Air National Guard administers COVID-19 vaccinations

U.S. Air Force personnel assigned to the South Carolina Air National Guard's 169th Fighter Wing at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, S.C. receive COVID-19 vaccinations, Oct. 2, 2021. For some this is their first vaccination in a series of two, while others are receiving their second or booster if they meet eligibility criteria. On Aug. 24, 2021, U.S. Department of Defense Secretary Lloyd J. Austin, III mandated that all service members be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Following this order, the U.S. Air Force finalized the deadline for all Airmen to be vaccinated, to include active duty, Reserve, and National Guard. All South Carolina National Guard Airmen are expected to begin getting the vaccine as soon as possible. South Carolina Air National Guard personnel have until Dec. 2, 2021 to be fully vaccinated. According to the CDC, people are considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their second dose of the two-dose vaccine, or two weeks after the single-dose vaccine.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157720057819437>

South Carolina National Guard talks about suicide prevention month

On this episode of the Palmetto Guardian we talk with U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. William R. Kyzer II, South Carolina National Guard state command sergeant major, about September being suicide prevention month, and things we can do to break the stigma.

Podcast: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2T9fxpw35E>

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.

Weighted knee drive: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EIP8JNUMBKI>

Suitcase carry: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UmA8_MB26IQ

Shoulder tap: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sd6N4VkgCSk>

Glute bridge: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=p54k3WSnBuQ>

External Media

South Carolina National Guard to grand marshal Columbia's Veterans Day parade

The annual parade, known as one of the Southeast's largest Veterans Day parades, is set for 11 a.m. on Thursday, November 11 in downtown Columbia.

WLTX:

<https://www.wltx.com/article/news/national/military-news/sc-national-guard-grand-marshal-columbia-veterans-day-parade-2021/101-6936bab3-89a1-4906-bf77-0635032a68d1>

Cyber News Now: USC Aiken partners with SANS, plans for multi-million dollar construction
Plus, the South Carolina National Guard plans to house the cyber battalion in a \$30M dollar building directly behind the AMC.

FOX 54:

<https://www.wfxg.com/story/45099746/cyber-news-now-usc-aiken-partners-with-sans-plans-for-multimillion-dollar-construction>

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:

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DVIDS:	South Carolina National Guard	169th Fighter Wing