

Public Affairs Update September 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:

South Carolina National Guard talks 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>

Guardian Quarterly: July, August, September review

In this installment of the Guardian Quarterly, the South Carolina National Guard Public Affairs office covers events in the third quarter of 2021. Topics range from announcing senior leader appointments to the remembrance of 9/11, and more are all covered in the episode.

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L1PICg9pKGY>

ESGR Freedom Award presentation

The Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) event, Sept. 28, 2021, in Columbia, South Carolina. This event recognized two corporations, Boyer Commercial Construction Inc. and HCA Healthcare- Grand Strand Medical Center as recipients of the 2021 Freedom Award. The Freedom Award is a highly regarded honor presented by the ESGR to corporations based on their initiatives supporting the service members within their corporations.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719925920968>

Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day

Members of the South Carolina National Guard honored fallen service members at a Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day ceremony Sept. 25, 2021, at the American Legion Post 7 in Lexington, South Carolina. The last Sunday of September has been designated as Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day to honor the memory of those sons and daughters who gave their lives for their country while serving in the armed forces.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719905478099>

South Carolina National Guard supports South Carolina Department of Veterans Affairs Steps & Strides event

The South Carolina National Guard supports the South Carolina Department of Veteran Affairs in their third annual Steps & Strides Against Veteran Suicide fall festival and walk, Sept. 25, 2021, in Columbia, South Carolina. U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South

Carolina, provided remarks during the community event. The South Carolina National Guard Service Member and Family Care directorate provides attendees resources regarding suicide awareness and prevention methods.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719903442473>

South Carolina National Guard participates in Bright Star exercise

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard participated in Bright Star 21, a joint training exercise with the Egyptian army, Aug. 26 - Sept. 17, 2021, in Egypt. Bright Star is a multilateral exercise hosted by the Arab Republic of Egypt with support from U.S. Central Command. The exercise contains three key events: command post exercise, field training exercise, and a senior leader seminar. Bright Star promotes and enhances regional security and cooperation and promotes interoperability and partnerships by bringing together more than 20 different countries as part of the exercise.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719928593360>

The South Carolina National Guard: A Family that serves

This is the story of retired U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Barbara Moore, who served as the senior noncommissioned officer in charge of the human resource department for the South Carolina National Guard Joint Force Headquarters out of Columbia, South Carolina and her son U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Carten Lemont Moze, who currently serves as the senior cyber operations noncommissioned officer for the South Carolina National Guard, 125th Cyber Protection Battalion out of Eastover, South Carolina. They talk about being a mother and son serving together in the South Carolina National Guard since the attacks on 9/11.

Story: <https://www.dvidshub.net/news/405347/south-carolina-national-guard-family-serves>

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OTY7jjy-uYA>

Warrant officer professional development day

The South Carolina National Guard conducts a warrant officer professional development day, Sept. 12, 2021, to discuss current topics relevant to warrant officers in the South Carolina Army National Guard.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719858696943>

Joint Force Headquarters conducts change of command ceremony

Joint Force Headquarters, South Carolina National Guard, conducted a change of command ceremony at the Bluff Road Readiness Center in Columbia, South Carolina, Sept. 12, 2021. Outgoing commander U.S. Army Maj. Marion Yarborough relinquished command to U.S. Army Maj. Johnny Brown.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719818358403>

Brig. Gen. Akshai Gandhi promotion ceremony

U.S. Air Force Col. Akshai Gandhi, is promoted to the rank of brigadier general, during a ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Sept. 12, 2021. He was recently the commander of the 169th Fighter Wing and will serve as the next South Carolina National Guard Assistant Adjutant General, Air.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719846168557>

Command Sgt. Maj. Murray retirement

U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jimmy Murray, 218th Regional Training Institute regimental command sergeant major, South Carolina National Guard, was recognized for his service and leadership at a retirement ceremony, Sept. 12, 2021, at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina.

Murray is retiring after 40 years of service to the South Carolina National Guard. Murray has served as the 218th RTI command sergeant major since October 2015, after completing his tour in Kuwait. He has served in diverse roles with a variety of units within the South Carolina National Guard, and has earned numerous awards and medals to include the Bronze Star Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, and the South Carolina Achievement Ribbon with one Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719822089878>

South Carolina National Guard recognizes 20-year anniversary of September 11th

The South Carolina National Guard recognizes the contributions and accomplishments of the U.S. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen who have served in the South Carolina National Guard since September 11, 2001 with a documentary highlighting some of the deployments of the Major Subordinate Commands.

Documentary: <https://youtu.be/i6l4gZbOzoU>

Recognition ceremony video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NeO0yA76lws>

Recognition ceremony photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719797254073>

Downtown Columbia ceremony video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KPPqnW6-Blg>

Downtown Columbia ceremony photos:

<https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719809871304>

169th Fighter Wing conducts change of command ceremony

The South Carolina Air National Guard's 169th Fighter Wing conducts a change of command ceremony at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Sept. 11, 2021, where U.S. Air Force Col. Quaid Quadri Jr. assumes command from Col. Akshai Gandhi. Brig. Gen. Boris Armstrong, Chief of Staff, South Carolina Air National Guard, presides over the ceremony.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719822656176>

South Carolina National Guard conducts warrant officer hall of fame induction ceremony

The South Carolina National Guard conducted a warrant officer hall of fame ceremony at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, Sept. 11, 2021, recognizing the newest inductees into the warrant officer hall of fame. Those selected to be inducted into the warrant officer hall of fame have made significant contributions to the organization and nation while serving in the South Carolina National Guard.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719812372009>

Brig. Gen. Scott Bridgers retirement ceremony

U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Scott Bridgers, South Carolina National Guard Assistant Adjutant General, Air, is 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, Sept. 11, 2021. Bridgers retires after 32 years of service.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719836640282>

Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Thomas retirement ceremony

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Kevin Thomas, South Carolina National Guard Command Senior Enlisted Leader and South Carolina Air National Guard State Command Chief, is 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, Sept. 11, 2021. Thomas retires after 29 years of service.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719820604468>

Chief Master Sgt. Martina Borg retirement ceremony

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Martina Borg, 169th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron superintendent, 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, Sept. 11, 2021. Borg retires after 35 years of service.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719812682459>

South Carolina National Guard supports Louisiana in aftermath of Hurricane Ida

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard support the Louisiana National Guard in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida, September 2021, in multiple areas in Louisiana. The South Carolina National Guard sent approximately 190 Soldiers from engineer, military police, and transportation units to support the citizens of Louisiana. The types of missions the South Carolina National Guard conducted include point of distribution operations, directing traffic, debris clearance, sand removal, transporting equipment and supplies, and site security.

Departure: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719768009979> and <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719773211799> and <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719804972107>

On ground: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719848961181>

Return: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719883287484> and <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719920406389>

USO at McCrady Training Center celebrates 10 years

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard, U.S. Navy Sailors, and USO personnel celebrate the 10th anniversary of the USO location at McCrady Training Center in Eastover, South Carolina, Sept. 10, 2021. The USO supports service members throughout the military by providing a place to connect to resources, and providing supplies to help boost morale during training and traveling.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719857549480>

South Carolina National Guard conducts “Band-Aids not bullets diplomacy” in Colombia

South Carolina Army and Air National Guard medical personnel conducted a real-world humanitarian medical mission in the remote town of Tamana, Colombia during the regional Ángel de los Andes (Angel of the Andes) and Cooperación VII exercises. Approximately 30 members of the South Carolina National Guard are participating in the exercises from August 30 to September 10. The exercises provide training opportunities with South Carolina’s state partner, the Republic of Colombia, in realistic combat search and rescue missions as well as humanitarian aid and disaster response scenarios such as earthquakes and tsunamis.

Story:

<https://www.dvidshub.net/news/404786/south-carolina-national-guard-conducts-band-aids-not-bullets-diplomacy-colombia>

Maj. Gen. Van McCarty signs Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day proclamation

U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, South Carolina adjutant general, signs the “Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day” proclamation in Columbia, South Carolina, Sept. 7, 2021. “Suicide Prevention and Awareness Day” is observed on Sept. 10, 2021, and called upon all South Carolina National Guard Soldiers, members, and their families to increase their participation in initiatives focused on preventing deaths by suicide.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719848133460>

Col. Gandhi’s fini flight

U.S. Air Force Col. Akshai Gandhi, 169th Fighter Wing commander, performed his final 'fini' flight in a South Carolina Air National Guard F-16 Fighting Falcon fighter jet at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, Sept. 10, 2021. He has 4593 F-16 flight hours which includes 600 combat hours. Gandhi will relinquish command of the 169FW during a ceremony at the base on Sept. 11th and will be promoted to the rank of brigadier general as the South Carolina National Guard’s next Assistant Adjutant General, Air during a promotion ceremony on Sept. 12th.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157719816258986>

South Carolina National Guard supports SOCOM training event

U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers assigned to Det. 1 Company B, 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, provided airlift support to a multi-agency training event with a CH-47F Chinook helicopter at Savannah River Site near Aiken, South Carolina, Sept. 1, 2021. The event included load and unload operations of a MRZR all-terrain vehicle with elements of the United States Special Operations Command at different locations within the Savannah River Site.

Photos: <https://flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157719859712198>

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.

Pallof press and hold: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=smHitSCeRW0>

Wide leg situp: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-mIXy13hNE>

Dead bug: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6meGL0-vwD8>

Bicycle: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=38D2csmbKGk>

Side crunch: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c2QvnX7YT04>

External Media

South Carolina National Guard and State Guard commemorate 20th anniversary of 9/11

The South Carolina National Guard and the State Guard are marking the 20th anniversary of September 11th.

ABC Columbia:

<https://www.abccolumbia.com/2021/09/07/south-carolina-national-guard-and-state-guard-commemorate-20th-anniversary-of-9-11/>

SC Air National Guard to commemorate 9/11 anniversary with flyovers

The South Carolina Air National Guard supported three flyovers on Saturday to commemorate the 20th anniversary of 9/11 terrorist attacks.

WSPA:

<https://www.wspa.com/news/sc-air-national-guard-to-commemorate-9-11-anniversary-with-flyover-in-clemson/>

SC National Guard provides healthy care education in South America

The South Carolina Army and Air National Guard medical personnel conducted a real-world humanitarian medical mission in the remote town of Tamana, Colombia last weekend.

WRDW:

<https://www.wrdw.com/2021/09/13/sc-national-guard-provides-health-care-education-south-america/>

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:	@official_scguard	@scairnationalguard
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Youtube:	SCNationalGuard	S.C. Air National Guard
DVIDS:	South Carolina National Guard	169th Fighter Wing