Public Affairs Update April 2-30, 2020

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.

May 8 is Military Spouse Appreciation Day. Take time to recognize the sacrifices military spouses make every day.

Please share with your Soldiers that they can find the postings for full-time employment opportunities on the South Carolina National Guard website, accessible without a CAC card: https://www.scguard.ng.mil/Resources/Employment-Opportunities/

Also, as we enter an election cycle, please share with your Soldiers, Airmen, and civilian employees guidance on engaging in political activity: https://www.scguard.ng.mil/Resources/Political-Guidance/

Non-COVID-19 response

SC-HART trains for hurricane season
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard conduct live-hoist training with civilian partners as part of the South Carolina Helicopter Aquatic Rescue Team (SC-HART) with UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters April 29, 2020 at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, in preparation for hurricane season. Five rescue technicians, two pilots and one crew chief worked together to maintain currency and proficiency.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714103974581

South Carolina National Guard conducts promotion ceremony for command sergeant major
U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Michael Binninger, Jr. was promoted to command sergeant major during a ceremony April 29, 2020 at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division in West Columbia, South Carolina. Binninger became the command sergeant major of 178th Engineer Battalion, 117th Engineer Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, March 25, but was officially pinned with the rank during the ceremony, surrounded by family, friends, and other members of his unit.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714095701677
1220th Area Clearance Platoon clears grenade range
The 1220th Area Clearance Platoon, 122nd Engineering Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, conducts an area clearance mission on Fort Jackson, South Carolina, April 28, 2020, to clear the live hand grenade range using a robotic mine flail. The range had several unexploded hand grenades, which rendered the range inoperable for Fort Jackson basic trainees to utilize.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714080799361

South Carolina National Guard medical personnel conduct equipment inventory
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1-118th Infantry Battalion and the 1-178th Field Artillery Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, conduct inventory of their medical equipment at the 1-118th Infantry Battalion Readiness Center in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, April 27, 2020 to be used in support of the National Guard’s eXportable Combat Training Capability exercise (XCTC), a training program designed to certify platoon proficiency in coordination with First Army. The purpose of the inventory is to ensure mission readiness for future mission operations.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714077892982

Tactical Operation Mannequin increases training opportunities for medical Soldiers
The South Carolina National Guard Medical Command is ensuring the state’s National Guard medical personnel have the latest in training tools, knowing that quality and repetition are the keys to saving lives for a medic in the U.S Army National Guard. U.S. Army Sgt. Corey Outen and U.S. Army Cpl. Tracy Caulder, South Carolina National Guard Medical Command, visited the 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (AAMDC), April 23-24, 2020, to deliver a Tactical Operational Mannequin (TOM) to 263rd AAMDC medical personnel at the Anderson Army Readiness Center.
Story: https://www.dvidshub.net/news/368535/tactical-operation-mannequin-increases-training-opportunities-medical-soldiers

South Carolina National Guard provides storm response
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 2-263rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, assist local civil authorities in Seneca, South Carolina, April 24, 2020 in the aftermath of the tornadoes that impacted the state April 13.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714035163703

Service Member & Family Care provides employment services
The South Carolina National Guard Service Member and Family Care Program offers free services to South Carolina's military community. It is our mission to help service members, veterans, and their families to be Ready, Resilient, Relevant, and Responsible. Employment services are available at seven locations throughout the state. Call us, we are here to help.
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3QrDA1jt1Rk

South Carolina Air National Guard fire department construction underway
A nearly $8 million construction project for an upgraded and expanded base fire department is ongoing for the next scheduled 18 months. The fire department, built in 1986, is one of several ongoing construction projects at McEntire JNGB, part of a base-wide infrastructure improvement program.
Story: https://www.dvidshub.net/news/367553/fire-department-construction-underway
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157713913922231
South Carolina National Guard mans traffic control points after tornadoes
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 2-263rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion, South Carolina National Guard, assist local authorities with manning traffic control points in Oconee County, South Carolina in the aftermath of the tornadoes that impacted the state April 13, 2020.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713915590791

4-118th Infantry conducts M4 range
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers in Company C, 4-118th Infantry Regiment, 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, in the South Carolina Army National Guard, participate in M4 rifle weapon's zero and qualifications while deployed in the Central Command area of operations, April 21, 2020. The unit is deployed to support Operation Spartan Shield.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/30abct/albums/72157714008729313

South Carolina National Guard chaplain provides virtual Easter service
Chap. (Maj.) John Denny, South Carolina National Guard chaplain, offers an Easter service at the South Carolina Emergency Management Division in West Columbia, South Carolina, April 12, 2020.
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OG--PSkTY3c

Our nation, our state, my community - join the South Carolina National Guard and become part of a team
Our nation, our state, my community. Find out how you can join a team that serves the nation, state, and communities in a time of need. Serve in the South Carolina National Guard and earn a sense of pride knowing you are responding to protect your neighbors, friends, and family during natural disasters in the state. Be proud to serve South Carolina because it's your home, too. Find out how, by contacting a recruiter today.
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4zAYmirmzWw

We are here to help: Service Member & Family Care offers free services to service members, Families
The South Carolina National Guard Service Member and Family Care Directorate offers free services to South Carolina's military community at eight Service Member & Family Care centers throughout the state. It is our mission to help service members, veterans, and their families to be Ready, Resilient, Relevant, and Responsible. Mental, physical, emotional, and financial health are essential to achieving this, so our target is all of these areas. We are here to help.
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d9fPpUdYV5s

COVID-19 response
The adjutant general shares message to South Carolina Military Department
U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty provides a message to the Soldiers, Airmen, employees, and families of the South Carolina Military Department and highlights the support of the organization for the COVID-19 response efforts in South Carolina.
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YH85A8ZwMNI
Joint Task Force 59 Commander shares message to activated Soldiers, Airmen
U.S. Army Col. Timothy Wood, Joint Task Force 59 commander, provides a message to the South Carolina National Guard Soldiers and Airmen activated in support of COVID-19 response efforts in the state, highlights the missions accomplished, and thanks them and their families for their service.

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jisXkmIF5t4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jisXkmIF5t4)

Faces of the South Carolina National Guard
We are thankful for the Soldiers and Airmen who have answered the call to serve in the South Carolina National Guard and have been activated in support of COVID-19 response efforts in the state.

Photos: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713836153202](https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713836153202)

South Carolina National Guard assists hospital dismantle wellness center
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 1-118th Infantry Battalion and Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, help dismantle the field hospital April 29, 2020 that was set up at the Medical University of South Carolina (MUSC) Wellness Center in Charleston, South Carolina. Soldiers assisted with the removal of approximately 300 cots and medical equipment that included ventilators, mobile computer workstations, and gym equipment.

Photos: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714106558288](https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714106558288)

South Carolina National Guard supports Greenville food bank
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, assist the Harvest Hope Food Bank in Greenville, South Carolina, April 28, 2020 with packing emergency food boxes to be distributed to people in need throughout the state.

Photos: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714106418147](https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714106418147)

Swamp Fox salutes medical professionals during statewide flyover
F-16s from the South Carolina Air National Guard’s 169th Fighter Wing paid tribute to the state’s medical professionals and first responders during a round-the-state flyover, Monday, April 27.


Photos: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157714067430708](https://www.flickr.com/photos/thescang/albums/72157714067430708)

South Carolina National Guard supports local schools with meal distribution
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, transport and distribute school breakfasts and lunches in Horry County, South Carolina, April 27, 2020, in support of Horry County Schools and the South Carolina Department of Education. The support from the South Carolina National Guard allows the South Carolina Department of Education to continue providing meals to children during the COVID-19 school closures.

Photos: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714076723222](https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714076723222)

Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JChN3Mko2hw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JChN3Mko2hw)
South Carolina National Guard supports homeless shelter
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, support Oliver Gospel in serving meals and maintaining social distancing for the homeless community in Columbia, South Carolina.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713924810681
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XBLol_3itLU
April 24: Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714036459412

South Carolina National Guard conducts bus familiarization training
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, conduct bus familiarization training with the South Carolina Department of Education April 24, 2020, at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, in preparation for the South Carolina National Guard to support transporting school breakfasts and lunches.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714034533796
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGeRzGSe3A0

South Carolina National Guard conducts facility sanitation training
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard receive training from U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers from the Georgia National Guard on facility sanitation procedures at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, April 23, 2020 to be used in support of COVID-19 response efforts. The purpose of the training is to share sanitation methods aimed at halting the virus' spread in the community.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714014652498

South Carolina National Guard supports Columbia food bank
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, assist the Harvest Hope Food Bank in Columbia, South Carolina, April 23, 2020 with packing and loading emergency food boxes to be distributed to people in need throughout the state.
April 23: Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714014308731
Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qMNtji94clo
April 22: Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713999321018

South Carolina National Guard Soldiers maintain DRASH generator at hospital
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, continue to maintain the generator for the Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH) constructed for the Medical University of South Carolina Health Marion Medical Center in Mullins, South Carolina back on April 6, 2020, for the hospital to safely conduct screenings of presumed COVID-19 patients prior to admitting them into the hospital.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714034754313
South Carolina National Guard Soldiers train on deployable medical shelters
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, train with the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control on setting up and dismantling deployable medical shelters at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, April 21, 2020, to familiarize the Soldiers with the equipment in case the state’s healthcare system determines the need for the shelters in support of COVID-19 response efforts.

Photos:  https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157714008795131
Video:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VLr51l8Q6jM

South Carolina National Guard medical personnel conduct medical pre-screening for service members
U.S. Army National Guard medical personnel with the South Carolina National Guard, under Joint Task Force 59, provide medical pre-screening to U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers starting duty. The medical pre-screening is part of measures put in place to limit the exposure of COVID-19 for the service members and protect the health of the force.

April 20: Photos:  https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713972624708
Video:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-aAkFbtNg7w
April 15 - Photos:  https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713903217957
April 6 - Photos:  https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713779154038
April 1 - Photos:  https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713716047041

South Carolina National Guard tests signal equipment to showcase network capabilities
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade and Joint Force Headquarters set up signal equipment at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, April 17, 2020 to showcase the network capabilities available to support potential telemedicine, or virtual medical care, in support of COVID-19 response efforts in the state. The equipment can be used as a primary or secondary network capability for health care providers for the medical databases that enable the medical community to assess and treat patients remotely, if needed.

Photos:  https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713941245418

South Carolina National Guard constructs DRASH
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the South Carolina National Guard medical command, under Joint Task Force 59, construct a Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH) at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina, April 15, 2020, to train on setting up their equipment in the event the state has a need for the shelters in support of COVID-19 response efforts.

Photos:  https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713940138573
Video:  https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gxTcsNaRXg

South Carolina National Guard transports sandbags
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, transport sandbags from the Wateree River Correctional Institution, April 15, 2020, to be stored in preparation for possible missions for the sandbags to be used to anchor tents, if needed.

Photos:  https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713903733053
South Carolina National Guard assembles face shields
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, assemble face shields at McEntire Joint National Guard Base, South Carolina April 13, 2020 in support of the South Carolina Emergency Management Division.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713875926986

South Carolina National Guard conducts engineer assessments
The South Carolina National Guard works with state and federal agencies as a task force to conduct engineer assessments of sites as part of the state’s tiered medical response plan in support of COVID-19 response efforts.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713818178482

South Carolina National Guard sets up DRASH for hospital
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Carolina National Guard, constructed a Deployable Rapid Assembly Shelter (DRASH) for the Medical University of South Carolina Health Marion Medical Center in Mullins, South Carolina, April 6, 2020, for the hospital to safely conduct screenings of presumed COVID-19 patients prior to admitting them into the hospital.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713784434291

South Carolina supports state’s healthcare system during COVID-19 response efforts
U.S. Army Maj. Gen. R. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina, announces the South Carolina National Guard's support to the state's healthcare system for COVID-19 response efforts, April 6, 2020, during a press conference in Columbia, South Carolina. The South Carolina National Guard has been working with state and federal agencies to create an adaptable support plan intended to help expand hospital footprints, if needed.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713785589942

263rd Air and Missile Defense Command mobilizes in support of U.S. Army North
The 263rd Army Air and Missile Defense Command (263rd AAMDC) mobilized in support of U.S Army North, the U.S. Northern Command’s Joint Forces Land Component Command providing support to the Federal Emergency Management Agency leading the whole-of-nation COVID–19 response efforts, March 19, 2020 in Anderson, South Carolina. “We have an opportunity as great South Carolina Guardsmen to provide support to our state and the U.S., in whatever capacity we are asked to perform,” U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy Sheriff, 263rd AAMDC commander, explained.
Story: https://www.dvidshub.net/news/366515/263rd-army-air-and-missile-defense-command-supports-covi d-19-operations?fbclid=IwAR0QMqyvpWNFrLZSXSNRu9Q_d2rAA9sr50_qYWQCuTl41HOflR0zJz2 Knvk

South Carolina National Guard transports PPE
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, transport personal protective equipment April 2, 2020 to the 46 counties in South Carolina in support of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.
Photos: https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713740629927
South Carolina National Guard aviation transports PPE
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with the 2-238th General Support Aviation Battalion (GSAB), South Carolina National Guard, transport personal protective equipment with a CH-47 Chinook to be transported and distributed to counties in the upstate of South Carolina in support of the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control.
Photos: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713741439563](https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713741439563)
Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WibbAw-b18o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WibbAw-b18o)
Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giM5mNWYoI0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=giM5mNWYoI0)

South Carolina National Guard prepares PPE for transport
U.S. Army National Guard Soldiers with Joint Task Force 59, South Carolina National Guard, assist the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control in repacking a shipment of medical personal protective equipment received from the Strategic National Stockpile April 1, 2020 to be sorted and distributed to the 46 counties in the state in support of the COVID-19 response efforts.
Photos: [https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713719186897](https://www.flickr.com/photos/scguard/albums/72157713719186897)
Video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbOLtIqY9vw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zbOLtIqY9vw)

External Media Coverage:

SC Army National Guard, nonprofit help hand out student meals in Horry County
OBR volunteers are working in local restaurant kitchens, preparing meals for Horry County students. The state then brought in the SC Army National Guard for the manpower to distribute meals at the 13 school sites and deliver on bus routes.
Full stories:

SC National Guard lends a hand to food bank's coronavirus response in Aiken County
"We understand there is an increased need for support to the citizens of South Carolina and for the organizations that work to provide food to community members impacted by the current situation," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina. "The South Carolina National Guard is a community-based organization and we’re proud to be able to assist where needed, such as providing support to the Golden Harvest Food Bank with packaging and distributing food boxes. We’re in this situation together, and the South Carolina National Guard is prepared to support the needs of the state throughout the duration of the COVID-19 response efforts."
Full stories:
Heroes honoring heroes with flyover
Flying across the Palmetto state, the South Carolina Air National Guard honored those heroes on the front lines fighting the “invisible enemy,” COVID-19.

Full stories:

SC National Guard helping Harvest Hope
"The South Carolina National Guard is proud to support Harvest Hope during this time of need," said U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Van McCarty, the adjutant general for South Carolina. "Our mission is to assist state and local partners to help the communities and the citizens of South Carolina throughout this emergency, and this is a great example of neighbors helping neighbors. We will continue to support the needs of the state for the duration of the COVID-19 response efforts."

Full stories:

SC National Guard has approved sites for potential medical care facilities in surge plan
The South Carolina National Guard is moving ahead with its hospital surge plan as it inspects potential temporary makeshift medical facilities across the state. SCNG Adjutant General Van McMarty said the hospital surge plan is ready to go when needed.

Full stories:

South Carolina National Guard assisting tornado-ravaged Seneca community
24 Guardsmen deployed from the Seneca readiness center have began offering disaster relief

Full story:
Major General Van McCarty discusses how the SC National Guard is helping in the COVID-19 fight
Major General Van McCarty gives us insight about how the critical mission of the South Carolina National Guard in helping our state fight COVID-19.
Full story: https://www.wistv.com/2020/04/14/wis-today-major-general-van-mccarty-discusses-how-sc-national-guard-is-helping-covid-fight/

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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- Twitter: @theSCANG
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