



January 2022



The Voice of the Guard

74rd Annual State Conference

The NGASC will host it's 74rd annual state conference in Savannah, GA March 11-13, 2022! The Marriott Savannah Riverfront Hotel is ideally located on the river of historic downtown Savannah.

Friday evening feature our Icebreaker event along with the celebrated silent auction by our Spouses Auxiliary.

The keynote speaker this year is Andrew Carroll, the Directory for The Center for American War Letters. Mr. Carroll is a bestselling author, historian, and playwright. You will not want to miss his message! Also, Dennis Gillian, Inspirational Speaker, will be sharing a powerful message on Suicide.

As always, hospitality suites will be open for food, beverages, and of course fellowship! Also, make sure you stop by the booths of our Corporate Members/Exhibitors who make our conference possible. Their goods and services are in interest to guard members and many will have raffles and giveaways.

Registration for this event will be online SOON! Check our Facebook page for current registration status at <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064879801986>

Please note, you must be a current member of NGASC, EANGUS or NGAUS to attend the conference. We are looking forward to welcome you to Savannah in February!

Inside this issue

Adjutant General Letter.....	2
NGASC President Letter.....	3
Executive Director Letter.....	5
Insurance Benefits Letter	6
Chief of Staff Air	7
Command Chief Warrant Officer ..	9
Command Senior Enlisted Leader..	10
State Command Sergeant Major ..	12
State Command Senior Enlisted Leader	13
EANGUS Chairman.....	14
Retirees	15
SCNG Auxiliary	18
STARBASE.....	19
Military Museum	20
Corporate Sponsors	21-23
2021 NGASC Scholarship Recipients	25



A word from the Adjutant General

Dear South Carolina National Guard Family:

It is an honor to serve with the Soldiers, Airmen, and families of the South Carolina National Guard. Your hard work contributes to the overall success of the organization and I am proud of the accomplishments you all have achieved over this past year. There have also been challenges and setbacks, but your ability to overcome in these instances is a testament to the resiliency of the force.

In 2021, we continued to navigate what the new normal looks like in the sustained COVID-19 environment. However, this did not deter the South Carolina National Guard from responding when the state and nation called on us. The South Carolina Army National Guard supported the 59th Presidential Inauguration in our nation's capital in January, and responded to Louisiana when the citizens needed our help in the aftermath of Hurricane Ida this past September. Over the summer, the South Carolina Air

I am proud of the accomplishments you all have achieved over this past year

National Guard deployed to Prince Sultan Air Base in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in order to help bolster defensive capabilities against threats in the region. Throughout the year, we had additional personnel deployed to Kuwait, Egypt, Jordan, Germany, and Colombia, as well as continued support in the National Capital Region. We welcomed Soldiers home from the Southwest Border mission, while other units conducted training to prepare for future deployments in 2022 and beyond. Thank you for all that you do for this state and nation.

I also want to thank those who support the men and women of the South Carolina National Guard. It is because of the family members taking care of the home, the civilian employers who sacrifice when their employee is mobilized, and the community partners who support our military that make it possible for these service members to respond when needed. It is also because of the National Guard Association of South Carolina and their work to advocate on our behalf to safeguard benefits and resources for active and retired South Carolina National Guard members. I am thankful for the work they do on our behalf to ensure our service members and families are taken care of. The South Carolina National Guard would not be as successful without those who support us.

I look forward to the future of the South Carolina National Guard. We currently have the right leaders, in the right positions, at the right time. This past year, we welcomed Command Chief Master Sgt. Camille Caldwell as the state command senior enlisted leader, Command Sgt. Maj. William Kyzer, II, as the state command sergeant major, and Command Chief Master Sgt. Isaac Carr as the state command chief master sergeant. They have each already proven themselves as great leaders, and I know they will continue to do great work for this organization.

I am thankful for the opportunity to serve as The Adjutant General and I look forward to the challenges and opportunities to come in 2022.

Sincerely,
R. Van McCarty
Major General, SCNG
The Adjutant General

A word from the NGASC President

To say it's been a turbulent year for our National Guard members, retirees and families would be an understatement. COVID-19 has dominated the lives of our members and has been at the forefront of our thoughts for almost two years now. We hear about it everyday and it has affected us as individuals and as a nation. COVID-19 has forced us all to deal with adversity or tragedy in one way or another. Many of us have lost family, friends or coworkers to the virus. Some of our guardsmen have had to make heart wrenching decisions to separate from the military in order to follow their conscience. While it is tough to lose good people to a vaccination, I understand how difficult that decision must have been and I admire the courage it took to make it. Moving forward into 2022 I am optimistic that the post-COVID era will be a time that brings positive change in our state and country.



When I accepted the honor of being the NGASC President I set three goals; to increase our membership, trim the NGASC operating budget and expand access to our low cost insurance sales program.

The first goal to increase membership in NGASC, EANGUS and NGAUS has been a success. I am happy to report that we have grown our membership in all three organizations. We are in the top five states nationwide in membership percentages for all three associations and are currently number one in NGAUS membership percentage of the combined states. We can't rest on our past accomplishments! We still need more members so please pass on the importance of supporting this organization to your peers and mentor your future leaders on paying it forward. I can't stress enough how important membership is for accomplishing our goals. The biggest benefit for guardsmen being fought right now at the national level is no-cost Tricare for our guardsmen with the availability of low cost family coverage. Numbers matter in this fight, our politicians will fight harder for large voting blocks. Our current membership successes were made possible by the hard work and tireless promotion of our associations by the NGASC Executive Director and his outstanding staff. I would like to personally thank them all for their support and hard work.

Coming into this year we knew we would have a challenging year financially. The budget projections for 2021 were very low. The goal of trimming the NGASC budget was especially difficult because our association has very little fat to trim, but we did manage to find creative ways to save money without sacrificing service to our members. Rest assured that even though it has been a down year for us budget-wise, we are in great shape financially. The previous NGASC Presidents and NGASC staff have planned ahead and set aside funds to cover this kind of lean year. Even with a down year we are proudly in the top five most fiscally sound state guard associations. So, how do we stay at the top? Most people don't know this but our state National Guard Association doesn't get any of your annual or lifetime membership dues. One hundred percent of your dues go to the National Guard Association of the United States, and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States.

NGAUS and EANGUS use our dues to lobby congress for our missions, equipment and benefits that we use as national guardsmen. The way we fund our state association is with low

A word from the NGASC President cont.

cost insurance sales. We use the proceeds from this to pay for our NGASC operating costs and lobbying at the state level. Which brings me to my last goal.

Expanding access to our low cost insurance sales program. This has been a tough nut to crack but we have made great progress on this as well. We are currently having the best year on record for insurance sales, mostly because we have a great salesman with great products and rates but I will be glad to take some of the credit! Your association will be working hard in the coming months to get in front of our guardsmen so they can see what we have to offer them. For those that don't know, the NGASC offers a fantastic insurance program to its members and their spouses. One of The Adjutant Generals initiatives is to have our insurance sales manager 1SG(Ret) Jimmy Foley (803) 719-0567, jfoley@ngasc.org come talk to all of our soldiers and airmen about our insurance program. He wants every member of the NGASC to get the \$1,000 Non-Contributory Member Death Benefit for Active Guard Members. This is a free benefit for our association members. The only caveat is, you must sign up for it and be witnessed by a licensed association representative. Our insurance product is underwritten by the 5 star rated Armed Forces Benefits Association (AFBA) which provides unparalleled policies, pricing and service. If you would like more information on policies and pricing here is a link: https://ngasc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Combo-Flyer-for-SC_2020.pdf.

Meeting all of our goals is a great accomplishment that couldn't happen without a strong team. Please keep in mind that some of our military team members might need help or someone to talk to. The suicide rate among military members is unacceptably high, one is too many. Let them know that "Your story isn't over". I wear that patch every day to remind me that not everyone is in a good place and sometimes we should stop and just listen. The holidays are particularly hard on people who are experiencing depression or the loss of a loved one. This past year many of our friends may have experienced loss and are suffering silently. Please take the time to ask. We have all faced difficulties in one shape or another this past year, I know our members and our military as a whole will rise to the challenge and overcome any obstacle put in front of it. Rest assured that your state guard association will continue to support our state and its citizen soldiers well.

I am excited to tell you that your NGASC staff has once again managed to put together another fantastic state conference for this upcoming year. Many hours of hard work and negotiation have gone into making this event happen and it will be a great venue. The conference will be held at the Marriott Savannah Riverfront Hotel, March 11-13, 2022. I look forward to re-connecting with you all and continuing this long standing tradition. See you in the hospitality rooms!

I am truly honored and proud to serve our association and its members. Thank you for your service to our state and nation and as always, thank you for your continued support of the National Guard Association of South Carolina.

Respectfully,
Robert Hartzog



A word from the Executive Director

It has been another year with many moving parts for the South Carolina National Guard and for our National Guard Association of South Carolina which supports our Soldiers, Airmen, and Family. Every year our National Guard rises to the challenge. Whether it's supporting State, or Federal Mission. One thing that remains constant is the unwavering commitment of the National Guard Association to our service members and their families.

One of the most common questions I am asked is: Why should I join the National Guard Association of South Carolina (NGASC), National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS), Enlisted Association of the National Guard (EANGUS)? The better question might be, why not?

One thing that remains constant is the unwavering commitment of the National Guard Association to our service members and their families.

In today's fiscally constrained environment, the role of both the Army and Air National Guard has never been more important. The National Guard offers the most cost-effective alternative for the defense dollar. With this added responsibility comes the need for more resources from Congress, the South Carolina General Assembly and Department of Defense.

It's a great time for our National Guard men and women to participate in a combined membership in NGASC, NGAUS, or EANGUS. There has not been a better time for service member to join as a Life member of our Associations.

NGASC, NGAUS and EANGUS provide you with several tools to enable you to become as educated, informed, and effective participant in the legislative process. In addition to providing tools for your individual effort, both NGASC, NGAUS, and EANGUS add your voice to professional association dedicated to solely to advocating on behalf of current and former Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard

Lawrence Crowson
NGASC Executive Director

A word from the Insurance Benefits Manager

My name is Jimmy Foley. I am your Benefits Manager at the National Guard Association of South Carolina (NGASC). One of the greatest benefits to Association members, active drilling members of the South Carolina National Guard, Veterans and Retirees is our group term life insurance. It provides supplemental financial protection for Soldiers, Airmen, Veterans, Retirees and their Families in a time of need.

In May 2017, our association started providing a \$1,000 death benefit at no-cost to you by the NGASC for actively drilling guard members. Actively drilling guard members are covered 24/7 whether drilling or not. The only stipulation is that you must complete the application, designate a beneficiary and have your signature witnessed by the licensed association representative.

The existing **Basic Life Insurance** group policy provides financial protection in the event of death. Additionally, it provides coverage for your spouse and/or children, all at a very affordable monthly premium. The basic coverage allows for five coverage options, between \$5,000 up to \$50,000, and you can apply for \$5,000 without evi-



The NGASC provides a \$1,000 death benefit to YOU! Call Jimmy to complete your application! Spousal and dependent coverage is also available. Premiums can be payroll deducted by allotment or a bank draft from your financial institution. Your coverage will continue until age 70. Soldiers and Airmen that have at least \$10,000 in coverage can receive an emergency death benefit payment up to \$10,000 payable usually within one business day of notification.

The **Better Alternative Life Insurance** group policy was introduced by the NGASC to further supplement life insurance needs of its current customers that already have the maximum coverage under the basic policy. The Better Alternative policy has very affordable life insurance with a level death benefit and only three age bands for premium increases. The additional coverage available to you and your spouse are similar as what you know and/or remember from SGLI, increments of \$50,000 up to \$400,000. The Better Alternative life insurance is 24-hour coverage with no aviation or war exclusions. For Soldiers and Airmen that have Better Alternative coverage, the emergency death benefit payment is up to \$15,000 payable within one business day of notification. Full coverage continues up to age 70 as long as premiums are paid.

The Better Alternative Life Insurance coverage is available to Veterans and Retirees at the same rates as actively drilling guard members. The only stipulations are that you must be complete application prior to your 59th birthday and be within 60-days of your service separation.

The Better Alternative coverage comes with AFBA Family survivor college scholarship. Surviving spouse and children are eligible for \$10,000 per year, per Family, up to a total maximum benefit of \$40,000 toward a college degree if the member dies in a combat zone as a result of combat action or acts of foreign or domestic terrorism.

Don't forget to call the NGASC anytime your status changes and at least one month prior to separation from the National Guard in order to ensure both your contact information is current and means of premium payments are up-to-date. It only takes a few minutes to ensure the security of your Families future! The NGASC would hate for anyone to lose their low-cost life insurance. As a Retiree of the National Guard and having my own life insurance policy with the NGASC, I love my low-cost policy and know the security and peace of mind it provides!

Thank you for serving this great state and nation. If I may be of assistance, please feel free to contact me at (803) 719-0567.

Jimmy Foley
Benefit's Manager, NGASC

A word from the Chief of Staff—Air

Strategic Competition and the National Guard



Let's talk a bit about the role of our National Guard in today's reality of a return to strategic competition (*formerly great power competition*). China is rapidly rising with aspirations of being the world's dominant power at the same time Russia is harassing the West across the globe—and can now hold our homeland at risk. Added to these challenges are the need to re-capitalize our hard-used equipment from 20+ years of combat in Afghanistan and Iraq, coupled with the reality of constrained defense resourcing. Clearly, doing what we have always done is not a strategy for success.

With the need to respond to two large and hegemonic peer competitors, it is easy to jump to the conclusion that newly fielded capabilities should predominately reside in the active components. There is much talk in the halls of the Pentagon of not having “access” to our reserve components (National Guard and Reserve forces). This point of view stems from doing things the way we've always done them. In today's geo-political

space, we should heed Sir Winston Churchill's words, “We have run out of money; now we have to think.”

I submit, as do our senior NGB leaders, access is not really an issue. Highly educated and very well-meaning active component leaders (at all levels) need our help to understand how access really works. We must get them past the platitudes that imply the reserve components cannot be accessed rapidly enough. On the Air Guard side, mobilization timelines are the same as the active component. Once mobilized (effectively a political decision), the SCANG's 157th Fighter Squadron must “get out of town” on the same timelines as the three active-duty fighter squadrons at Shaw AFB, SC.

National Guard is *the primary* combat reserve force

As I am not steeped in Army National Guard readiness, I instead will highlight some empirical proof about how accessible our National Guard has proven itself. Within 48-hours of being “called up,” the National Guard had a division (10,000+ Soldiers) on the ground in our Nation's Capital. By the 96-hour point, that division grew to a corps (20,000+ Soldiers). This was done organically with National Guard resources and may have occurred even faster had it not been for limits on numbers of aircraft that could be on the ground at the same time at Andrews AFB, MD. Also, remember this was from a cold start as there was no strategic warning of the need, and we were already substantially deployed globally as well as in support of the Covid-19 mission. The result speaks for itself—when called upon, the National Guard delivers.

By law (National Defense Act of 1916), the National Guard is *the primary* combat reserve force. The commitment of our Nation's blood and treasure is not something to be taken lightly; it must be a deliberate decision. This is very important and intentional step baked into our republic. However, when that decision is made, the National Guard has and will continue to be there—we have a 20+ year track record of integrating into the Joint Force to prove it.

The real “access issue” is the National Guard must be mobilized. A perceived barrier to use of the Guard (and Reserves) exists among military planners and senior leaders as the authority to mobilize

A word from the Air Chief of Staff—Air Cont.

(activate) the reserve component rests with Secretary of Defense. Coincidentally, the decision to deploy military forces (Active or Guard/Reserve) also resides with the Secretary of Defense. When presented options to deploy forces into theater, the Secretary is also presented with the decision to activate the National Guard. There is simply not an “additional barrier.”

As leaders in our National Guard, we are the ones to carry this message. NGAUS will help make sure it is heard on Capitol Hill. We, however, must emphasize our accessibility and capability, as well as the need to re-capitalize with modern equipment, during every interaction we have with our active component brothers and sisters. We must also hear and address their concerns. I don’t think they are “anti-Guard,” I simply believe they have an insufficient depth of understanding and keeping everything in the active component may be the “easy button.”

Again, our job is to objectively reinforce the message that access to the reserve components is not substantially different than the active component. It is essential to the security of our Great Nation that our reserve component forces are modernized to be ready to fight at the sides of our active component partners.

For State and Nation!

Brig Gen Akshai ‘Abu’ Gandhi, USAF
Chief of Staff – Air, JFHQ-SC
McEntire JNGB, SC



A word from the Command Chief Warrant Officer

As we begin a new year, it is time once again to pause for reflection and look toward the future.

This past year continued along the path of challenges that we experienced in 2020 and the members of the South Carolina National Guard and their amazing families continued to serve our state and nation with commitment and professionalism. Members of the South Carolina National Guard spent a full year supporting COVID-19 operations, maintaining much needed resources throughout the state supporting a myriad of needs. As we move into the year 2022, additional challenges along the COVID-19 front are rearing up and the men and women of the South Carolina National Guard stand ready to continue to answer the call.



To say that our Soldiers and Airmen are busy is a bit of an understatement

In addition to our ongoing COVID-19 response, our Soldiers and Airmen continued supporting a multitude of stateside and overseas missions and Defense Support of Civil Authorities missions such as Hurricane Ida and the citizens of Louisiana, the Presidential Inauguration and other missions. To say that our Soldiers and Airmen are busy is a bit of an understatement. It is truly a testament to the resiliency and strength of their families that allows us, as a state and nation, to continue to be successful.

As we look to the future, we can see that our mission set will maintain a similar and steady course. I am continually amazed at the quality of people who choose to join our organization and feel positive about our future. Our nation continues to heal, strengthen and grow as we recognize and leverage our shared commonalities and strengths.

Melissa and I look forward to seeing you at the 74th National Guard Association of South Carolina's Annual State Conference March 11-13, 2022 in Savannah.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ray".

CW5 Raymond Evans
Command Chief Warrant Officer



A word from the Command Senior Enlisted Leader

I am honored to serve as the 2nd Command Senior Enlisted Leader of the South Carolina National Guard (SCNG). In this role, I work directly for The Adjutant General, MG V. Roy McCarty, as the primary advisor and spokesperson regarding issues related to the development and training, analysis and enforcement of established policies and standards for all Army and Air, fulltime and traditional, enlisted members. In addition, I am responsible for the health, morale, and welfare of enlisted service members. I am grateful to be entrusted with such important assets, each and every one of you. State CSM Richard Kyzer and State CCMSgt Isaac Carr and I work closely together to get after the issues and concerns of our Soldiers and Airmen to promote a work environment conducive to accomplishing the mission.

Thus far, I have been privileged to work on the State Partnership Program initiatives with the Colombian Army in Bogota. The initiatives include Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) and the enlisted leader professional development (ELPD) for noncommissioned officer (NCO) development with the Colombian military. Both are wonderful opportunities for our enlisted personnel to become engaged. Also, the liaison relationship established with the German Armed Forces Command, Reston, Virginia is another area our enlisted force can engage through competing for the German Armed Forces Badge for Military Proficiency (GAFPM).

I was most impressed by witnessing two events this year. First, the Transfer of Authority ceremony at the National Capital Region (NCR) Integrated Defense System that displayed the trust our nation has placed on the 263d Army Air and Missile Defense Command personnel to protect the NCR. Second, was the 218th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade enlisted and NCO participants that competed in the Best Warrior Competition (BWC). The rigorous amount of events and challenging interview boards were flawlessly handled by the final contestants. Their determination and dedication to the SCNG were evident and proved they were ready to handle more leadership responsibilities.

*I am grateful to be entrusted with such important assets,
each and every one of you*

I have participated in organizations of the SCNG such as the Women's Influential Network (WIN) and Joint Diversity Enlisted Council (JDEC). Both organizations are passionate about improving the work environment for all service members and need additional talented participants to further their goals of ensuring equal employment opportunities, career development, and planning the celebration of historical contributions of our Swamp Foxes. The work produced by these organizations does not go unnoticed and we must do our part in promoting, recruiting, and advertising in support of their efforts.

I am proud to lead such dedicated, capable, and competent Soldiers and Airmen to the next chapter of our assigned missions. I plan to heavily focus on mental health, also referred to as the invisible wounds, of our Soldiers and Airmen. My goal is to provide proper guidance and resources to remove the barriers standing in the way of a successful military career. I have visited several of our locations throughout the State and am amazed at the talent, experience, and enthusiasm displayed in the workplace. I look forward to each of us working to put the "joint" in our Army and Air operations. The sharing of our career specialties and capabilities will enhance our mission readiness. Our enlisted force must take advantage of professional development opportunities. The SCNG must work hard to compete for each seat availa-

A word from the Command Senior Enlisted Leader cont.

ble for courses as well as submit nominations for award recognitions. We owe this to our Soldiers and Airmen.

Over the years, the Department of Defense leaders have ordered Stand-Down days to address the force on suicide awareness and prevention, harassment and sexual assault awareness, domestic violence awareness, and extremism. Our military ranks have no place for individuals that violate our Core Values. We are all held to the standard of treating others with dignity and respect. We owe it to our Nation and our Battle Buddies/Wingmen to educate, and appropriately emulate, proper customs and courtesies to one another. In addition, it is imperative to speak up at the lowest level when others fall short of displaying proper military bearing. Our senior leaders are trusted to quickly gather the facts of reported violations and resolve matters to prevent and deter distrust in the ranks.

I am confident Soldiers and Airmen seeking mental health counseling and resources will not be treated any differently than members seeking medical or dental services. The mental health of our force is paramount. It is a brave Soldier and/or Airman that recognizes the need to come forward and ask for assistance. This exemplifies the Army's core value of Personal Courage. The courage of coming forward should be treated the same as the bravery exhibited to go into battle. I ask the men and women of the SCNG to lead the Nation on normalizing mental health counseling and resources so that others will follow our lead. We win as the mission is accomplished together, and without leaving a Soldier or Airman behind. One team, one fight!

CMSgt Camille R. W. Caldwell
Command Senior Enlisted Leader

A word from the State Command Sergeant Major

The past year has seen the utilization of the National Guard at an unprecedented rate. We have been everywhere this past year; floods, hurricanes, civil unrest, sending troops to the Capitol Building on January 6, and to the Southwest Border along with our historic and amazing response to COVID-19. These responses are on top of multiple units being deployed. The South Carolina Army National Guard has continued its fine tradition of answering the call. Our operational rate has been phenomenal, especially considering that we have been conducting multiple operations in a COVID-19 restricted environment.

We need to take stock of what we have accomplished over the past year. It has been a lot and the South Carolina Army National Guard has accomplished much. Our victories and accomplishments need to be celebrated. We also need to examine our shortcomings and failures. If a better understanding can be gleaned



Our victories and accomplishments need to be celebrated

from our failings, we can better prepare for the future. The future is bright but we will be operating under new conditions. We will see shrinking budgets, shortages in full-time manning and continued medical readiness requirements as COVID-19 continues. The South Carolina Army National Guard will still answer our State and Nation's calls for deployment and emergency response. We will still train the force. We will still take care of our personnel and our equipment. We will still be the responsible, relevant and ready force that we have been sworn to be. We will be competent, capable, caring professionals that we have been trained to be. Now more than ever we need to be focused on "People First" and "Winning Matter" mindset. The South Carolina Army National Guard has a historic track record of taking care of its Soldiers and their Families. Though our systems might be changing and our equipment might be going through modernization, the South Carolina Army National Guard has always focused on taking care of our people. "Winning Matters" is also one of the ways that we hold ourselves accountable. We hold ourselves accountable to each other, the citizens of the Great State of South Carolina and the American public. If we as an organization want to continue to not just survive, but thrive during the next couple of years, each of us need to find ways to "Win". As an individual, I need you to pass the upcoming ACFT, take the vaccine and complete your professional military education. As a unit, I need you to retain the best Soldiers, accomplish your medical readiness requirements and accomplish your assigned missions and training (both State and Federal).

As we prepare for the future in a volatile, uncertain, complex and ambiguous environment, **BE** the change that you want to see in our organization. **KNOW** your Soldiers and their ambitions to assist with their career development. **DO** your part to keep this organization relevant. Bless you ALL, and I look forward to meeting the future with you, side by side!

FOR STATE AND NATION:

WM. RICHARD KYZER II
CSM, SCARNG
State Command Sergeant Major

A word from the ANG State Command Senior Enlisted Leader

Greetings Guardsmen, Leaders, Warriors!

It is extremely humbling and an honor to serve as your 14th State Command chief of the South Carolina Air National Guard. Thank you to my SC National Guard and Air National Guard leadership for giving me this opportunity, I am truly honored and humbled to be selected to serve as the next state Air National Command chief. As your newly appointed Command Senior Enlisted Leader, my mission is to provide Airmen that are ready, relevant, resilient, and responsible for whatever threat or need that arises in defense of our nation.

In my role as the Air National Command Chief for the State of South Carolina I am responsible to the Adjutant General and Assistant General for air on quality-of-life issues and concerns for the enlisted airmen. My primary focus is our most valuable asset — people. Each member of the SC Air National Guard must maintain the highest level of mission readiness, job qualification,



Our challenge is to foster a climate and culture that continually looks for ways to raise the bar

steadfast in our commitment of taking care of people by treating all members with dignity and respect. Member readiness, AFSC qualification training and proficiency are critical to mission accomplishment. In addition to readiness and qualification training, a 'Continuum of Learning' towards professional development must be embraced and employed throughout each member's career. The institutional and occupational competencies of Airmen are best met when leaders properly care and work hard for the people they lead and serve. Supervisors and leaders must clearly communicate their standards and expectations, but also must create an atmosphere and relationship that allows for critical or constructive feedback.

We live in a world that is driven by rapidly changing technology and an environment that includes aggressive and capable global competitors. Therefore, if our Nation's military is to remain the best in the world, we need to do our part to challenge the status quo and make necessary changes in our Air National Guard today so we are ready for tomorrow. Therefore, we need Airmen who are ready, flexible and growth focused. In order for this to happen, we will need cultures and environments that empower Airmen and build 2030 & beyond future leaders. In order to keep the right talent in the U.S. Air Force, we have to make sure that we have a culture and a climate where people are excited to serve, feel empowered and valued. We must continue to grow the organization and sharpen the spear by providing opportunities for development and growth so our airmen are prepared for the next future missions. Our challenge is to foster a climate and culture that continually looks for ways to raise the bar and rise to the challenge while taking care of our most precious resource – our Airmen.

13 previous Air National Guard State Command Chiefs have been given this awesome opportunity, so I have charged myself to continue the Swampfox legacy and offer you bold leadership during these challenging times. As I close, remember the Air National Guard's mission is To fly, fight, and win...airpower anytime, anywhere!

Always There and Always on Mission! Mission First... People Always!

CMSgt Isaac M. Carr

A word from the EANGUS Chairman

Greetings to all,

Over the past two years there have been some tough times for everyone and I would like especially thank those serving, for their service during these tough times. During these times it has not been easy for your families either and I would like to say Thank You! Families are often overlooked for the contributions they make ensuring matters are taken care of at home while Soldiers and Airmen are away serving our State and Nation.

April of this year South Carolina hosted the EANGUS Area III Caucus at Myrtle Beach and it was a great time taking care of business in preparation for the EANGUS National conference. The EANGUS national Conference was conducted in August in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We had five delegates attending this conference along with spouses representing our auxiliary. A very informative conference along with taking care of matters that impact Soldiers and Airmen. In 2022, the EANGUS Area III Caucus will be hosted by Georgia and if you are interested please watch for more information coming out. Also, the EANGUS National Conference will be conducted August 6-11 in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Rest assured EANGUS is busy taking care of the Enlisted and their families. Please take time in your busy schedule to go the EANGUS website and follow the efforts of EANGUS.

<https://eangus.org/>

Membership is so important in every worthwhile organization and EANGUS is a very worthwhile organization. The larger our membership, the better voice we have in Washington. Please encourage others to join this great organization. The membership dues are very nominal in comparison to other organizations. Your efforts would be greatly appreciated.

We are looking forward to our state conference March 11-13, 2022, in Savannah, Georgia. For the past two years we have been unable to meet in person and we all have truly missed these times of taking care of business and the fellowship. This should be a great conference and I look forward to seeing each of you there.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your family.

Roger Marlowe
EANGUS Chairman

A word from the Retirees

MSG (Ret) Bill Giles and COL (Ret) James E. Lockemy “RETIREE CORNER REPORT FOR 2021”

Merriam-Webster defines retiree as: someone who has permanently stopped working in a job or profession: a person who has retired, a group of elderly *retirees*

We both have been retired from the Army National Guard for over a decade and that definition can't be further from the truth as we seem busier than ever and observe many other retirees keeping busy and viable in their everyday life. From working at other jobs or volunteering, retirees in all walks of life find ways to stay active and significant in their everyday life. This is especially true of those who once wore the uniform and were willing to sacrifice so much for this country.

As many of you know, in 2021 COVID forced us to forsake an in-person Annual NGASC Conference and settle for a “Virtual Conference”. At that “Conference” MSG (Ret) Bill Giles was elected to fill the one year remaining on the term of Eddie Eigner who chose not to run again and COL ((Ret) James Lockemy was elected to a new two year term. We were both honored to be selected as your two retiree representatives on the NGASC Executive Council. In planning to get out and visit all of the many retirees functions throughout our state as restrictions are eased or lifted from this Pandemic we found that there was outdated information as to when and where these groups get together. MSG (Ret) Giles has worked hard to compile a list as to all retiree groups and their contact info. Please help us keep your group's information updated by submitting updates and changes to us at wgiles002@gmail.com or (803) 606-9608 for MSG (Ret) Giles and/or newtownjames@boone.net for COL(Ret) Lockemy.

178th Field Artillery

Where: Grapevine Restaurant (1926 Boiling Springs Rd., Boiling Springs)

When: 2nd Saturday 0800 quarterly Mar, Jun, Sep, Dec

POC: Mervin Fuller wmf100@charter.net

263d ADA

Where: 316 E Main St, Walhalla

When: Last Thursday Monthly 1230 hrs [316 E Main St, Walhalla](mailto:316E@walhalla.com)

An Annual Meeting is also held, next one is

19 Jan 1700 hrs

POC: Jerry Lee

leejp@bellsouth.net

Air Guard

Where: Fort Jackson NCO Club

When: 1st Tuesday of each month, 1200. (The only exception is sometimes in July when it may interfere with July 4th; then it is held on the 2nd Tuesday.)

POC: Bob Barkalow rbarkalow@sc.rr.com

Batesburg All Ranks Club

Where:(out back in the Quonset Hut)

206 Armory Street, Batesburg SC

When: First Tuesday Monthly except for Jul 1900 hours

A meal, speaker, and club business

POC: James Gunter

james.n.gunter@gmail.com

A word from the Retirees cont.

Coastal Military Breakfast Club

When: Check with POC

Plenty of Parking, bring a friend

Where: Downtown Grill, 1022 Third Avenue, Conway

POC: Walt Singleton

singwalt@sccoast.net

Gaffney Retiree Group

When: 2nd Tuesday quarterly excluding Dec (Mar, Jun, Sep), 1800.

Where: Gaffney National Guard Armory (410 Hampshire Dr.)

POC: Robbie Hill

robhillsc51@gmail.com

Orangeburg Retiree Group

When: 3rd Saturday of each month, 0730.

Where: The Kuckery Restaurant (210 Cannon Bridge Rd.)

POC: Ricky Pooser

rpooser@mcteng.com

OWONCOE (Officer-Warrant Officer-Noncommissioned Officer-Enlisted) ^[1]_[SEP] When: 2nd Tuesday in February, May, August, and November. 1800-1900, social time; 1900-2000, business session and meal.

Where: Midway BBQ (811 Main St., Buffalo, SC 29321)

POC: George Goings

goingsgr@aol.com

Pee Dee Military Retirees ^[1]_[SEP] When: Last Saturday, quarterly (Jan, Apr, Jul, Oct).

Where: O'Hara's Restaurant (E. Wine St., Mullins)

POC: Buddy Harrelson

harrelsonb@bellsouth.net

Midlands SCARNG Retiree Group ^[1]_[SEP] When: Last Wednesday of every month, 0700-0900.

Where: Brookland Baptist Church (1054 Sunset Blvd./Hwy. 378, West Columbia)

POC: Jack Haynes

jackhhaynes@aol.com ^[1]_[SEP]

Spartanburg Retired Guard

When: 4th Tuesday of each month, 0900.

Where: Dennys Restaurant (2306 Reidville Rd, Spartanburg)

POC: Willie Dogan

wdogan1@aol.com

Sumter Guard

When: Each Thursday morning, at 07:30

Where: 2129 Cosgrove Ave, North Charleston

Business and Breakfast

POC: Ricky B. Archambault

archambaultr@charleston-sc.gov

Upstate Retired National Guard

When: Last Saturday of each month, 0800 (minus May and December).

Where: Denny's Restaurant (Reidville Road, Spartanburg)

POC: William B. Stover

wbstover@bellsouth.net

A word from the Retirees

These lists are the best we can discern at this time and some of these groups may not be meeting due to COVID. Once again, if anyone has more up to date information, please let us know,

We encourage everyone to attend not only their local meetings but to visit any others to stay in touch with old friends and colleagues. MSG (Ret) Giles regularly attends the Midlands Retiree meetings held at the First Presbyterian Church on Washington Street in Columbia. COL (Ret) Lockemy also attends when he can. The November meeting was well attended with approximately 90 attendees and guests. Jack Haynes and crew have done excellent work at keeping us up to date. The Upstate Retiree Group just had a wonderful Christmas gathering in Spartanburg. The SCANG National Guard group is very active and just had a well-attended luncheon.

For the last two years, the NGASC has recognized a South Carolina National Guard Retiree of the Year. This person is someone retired from the Guard and yet still continues to serve the military community and his/her state community. The nominee must be a member in good standing of the National Guard Association of South Carolina. If you have someone in mind please email one of us with information as to why the person should be recognized at the addresses listed above by January 31, 2022. We look forward to selecting a new Retiree of the Year at the Annual Conference.

Finally, our NGASC staff is hard at work planning our 74th Annual State Conference on March 11-13, 2022, in Savannah! Remember to sit with your fellow retirees during the business sessions on Saturday and Sunday and when the roll of units in attendance is called we will all respond in unison to let everyone know that we are present. In addition, please attend the Sunday Service where we commemorate those that have passed away since our last conference. We hope to see you in Savannah!

Wishing everyone a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

MSG (Ret) Bill Giles

COL (Ret) James E. Lockemy

A word from SCNG Auxiliary

Please welcome our new Acting President Judy Sturgis.

Judy is a long time Auxiliary member who has graciously accepted the offer to be our Acting President at this time. She is a past president of the Auxiliary and has served in various Board position and committees. We welcome her!

The Auxiliary has opted *not to participate* in the Silent Auction this year. Although a favorite for all, due to the strain of the pandemic, we do not wish to further burden our members or supportive businesses with soliciting donations. Therefore, we shall participate in several raffles this year at the Conference. You won't be disappointed! We will be having our annual meeting, a delicious catered continental breakfast, and delightful entertainment.

Board member positions are available and will be voted on at the annual meeting. If you or another member would like to join the Board or run for an office, please contact us at info@ngasca.org and we will be sure to add your name. **No experience needed!**

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE 1/31/2022 VISIT US AT WWW.NGASCA.ORG FOR AN APPLICATION TODAY!

May the holiday season fill your home with joy, your heart with love, and your life with laughter.

Happy Holidays!



A word from STARBASE

Last year COVID and the effect it was having on our STARBASE Swamp Fox program permeated the article for the NGASC newsletter. We were hoping that by this time this year we would be back on track with our “normal” program, but unfortunately that is not the case. Our Master Calendar was prepared late last Spring and all of our schools were set to return to McEntire JNGB to participate in our 5-day STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) curriculum. To-date, only one school has been allowed or able to attend classes on base. However, we have received a reluctant head nod from DOD STARBASE to allow us to carry the classes to the schools as an Exception to Policy in what is termed the “STARBASE on Wheels” option. We would much rather have the students in our classrooms on base, and the teachers at our participating schools are still telling us how much they miss bringing their students out to the base. Scheduling classes has been a real challenge for the first semester of the 2021-2022 school year. However, due to a great staff and their ability and availability, we have been providing classes on a weekly basis at campuses around the Midlands. STARBASE Swamp Fox continues to work with multiple school districts as well as private schools, including Richland 1 & 2, Lexington 1 & 2, Lexington-Richland 5, Sumter, Calhoun, Kershaw, SC Independent Schools, and the Diocese of Charleston. Deputy Director Sugarr Banks and our Office Manager Mandy Smathers work diligently to provide the absolute best curriculum possible to each

“STARBASE on Wheels”

and every school. Our fabulous instructors Stan Seabrook, Tierra Woods, Vickie Saunders, Marcia Oliver, Susan McGee and Rodney Saunders continue to display the utmost professionalism as they prepare and present outstanding lessons to all of our fifth grade students. Our program is also enhanced and is able to do what it does due to the outstanding support we receive from our Federal Program Manager, Col Mike Dunkin, and the leadership and oversight by BG Jeff Jones and Mr. Ken Braddock and their entire SC Military Department support crew in the TAG building.

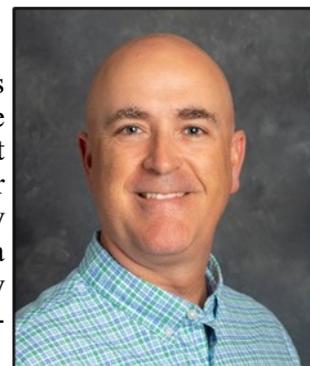


The South Carolina Military Museum embraced 2021 with a new energy that saw opportunities for growth and facility expansion. Much of the year was spent navigating through piles of boxes, construction debris, and layers of drywall dust. After several months of extensive renovations, the entire museum reopened on July 4th weekend. Key improvements include an expanded Artillery Hall, now known as Battery Bay and a new Multipurpose Room that provides much needed meeting space.

Battery Bay features over 1,200 square feet of expanded exhibition space for many of the museum's artillery pieces, including examples from the 19th and 20th centuries.

In addition, two of the original maintenance cages have been retained for use as working space for the museum collections staff. The space also features a permanent exhibition highlighting the history of the original tenant of the building, the 3649th Maintenance Company. Future additions include a variety of mortars, projectiles, and a STEM-focused treatment of the history of the field artillery.

The museum welcomed a new director in February. Saddler Taylor brings over twenty five years of museum experience to the organization. A native of Fort Mill, SC, Taylor spent the last twenty years on the curatorial staff at the McKissick Museum at the University of South Carolina. Also a member of the South Carolina Army National Guard, Taylor has served for twenty four years in a variety of field artillery units. Coming from a family with a rich tradition of military service, he is passionate about telling the story of the citizen-soldier in the Palmetto State and excited about the role the museum can play in the community.



The museum continues to forge ahead with new facility projects, including the upcoming completion of two large rooms for collections storage, new curatorial offices, and a renovated and expanded library and archive. A new off-site workshop should be ready this spring. An important resource, the workshop is vital to the work of both full-time staff and our talented group of volunteers.

We will welcome a new Curator of Exhibitions in January! Cale Carter brings a passion for World War II history and a particular interest in working with K-12 students. We are always looking to improve ways to engage the public. Starting last spring, the museum worked with the education staff at



South Carolina ETV to develop a virtual tour of the museum. In November, the tour launched on SCETV's K-12 portal KnowItAll.org and we are excited to see how teachers across the state use this tool in the classroom! Our exhibition spaces are also going through both short- and long-term changes. Visitors will start to notice these changes right away. From small exhibitions exploring the history of the museum to larger exhibitions chronicling small arms through the centuries, all of the changes align with our goal of telling a more comprehensive and dynamic story of the military in South Carolina.



State Sponsored Life Insurance (SSLI) Program

Since 1947, Armed Forces Benefit Association (AFBA) has stood by our country's armed forces in war and peace providing survivor benefits to families who have lost loved ones in every major military conflict from Korea through present day. With coverage underwritten by 5Star Life Insurance Company, AFBA is the largest SSLI provider to the National Guard **servicing 54 state and territory associations** and **protects 225,000 Guard members** with **\$17.5 billion of coverage in force** and has **paid over \$125 million in claims** to National Guard families.

Highlights of the SSLI program include:

- \$1,000 death benefit at no cost to you paid for by the National Guard Association of South Carolina (NGASC).
- No combat, terrorism, or geographical exclusions. No added premium for flight status.
- Emergency death benefit payment mailed within 24 hours of notification (subject to contestability).
- Keep the coverage after retirement or separation at group rates.
- Additional coverage available for you and your spouse.

Non-insurance benefit:

- Survivor college scholarship up to \$40,000 per household for families of those who make the ultimate sacrifice serving our country as a result of combat actions, foreign or domestic terrorism.*

**Contact NGASC to learn
more or enroll, today!**
803-254-8456



U.S. Air National Guard photo by Senior Master Sgt. Edward Snyder.

* Conditions apply. Please contact NGASC or AFBA for more information.

Survivor benefits provided through NGASC and AFBA are underwritten by 5Star Life Insurance Company (a Lincoln, Nebraska company), with an administrative office at: 909 N. Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. Member death benefits not available in all states and U.S. Territories. Policy #: MAT Pol and LT050197 (Rev). NGASC Article R0321

Visit Our Sponsors



Visit Our Sponsors





NGASC
National Guard Association of South Carolina



NGAUS
The National Guard Association of the United States



EANGUS
Enlisted Association of the National Guard
of the United States

YOUR VOICE AT THE STATE & NATIONAL LEVEL!

NO INCOME TAX ON NATIONAL GUARD PAY
SC COLLEGE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS
TRICARE RESERVE SELECT BENEFITS
COMMISSARY / PX PRIVILEGES
NGASC MEMBER INSURANCE
PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
SC STATE PENSION

JOIN NOW!

WWW.NGASC.ORG

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

LAWRENCE W. CROWSON | 803-254-8456

LCROWSON@NGASC.ORG

2021 NGASC Scholarship Recipients



Jalen A. Crumpton

Sponsor: LTC Rudy E. Crumpton Jr.

State Association: South Carolina

Degree: Bachelor's Degree in Sports Management and Minor in Business Administration

Goals: I am currently a freshman student-athlete attending Newberry College Majoring in Sports Management. I was fortunate to receive a scholarship from the South Carolina National Guard Association that is going to help me with expenses while attending college. This scholarship will help assist with text books and other necessary materials needed for my classes. I am very thankful to for this generous contribution and scholarship. I will always be grateful and sincerely appreciate you generosity.

Kelsi Deese

Sponsor: MSG Brian Deese

State Association: South Carolina

Degree: Nursing

Goals: To graduate Nursing school at the University of South Carolina. Thank you for your generous donation of the National Guard Scholarship, this one-thousand-dollar scholarship is a tremendous benefit.

Anna Fuller

Sponsor: MSgt Bret R. Fuller

State Association: South Carolina

Degree: Bachelor's Degree in Biology

Goals: I am a junior biology major, with a minor in Psychology, with aspirations of going to Physicians Assistance School. The scholarships from our generous donors has help to further my education and pursue my dreams.

Kobe Robinson

Sponsor: COL James Robinson

Degree: Digital Culture and Design

Goals: to have multiple studios around America then eventually the world. Also to be able to photograph music festivals and go on tour to photograph artist of all genres.



NGASC

National Guard Association of South Carolina

STAFF

CMSgt (Ret.) Lawrence Crowson - Executive Director
lcrowson@ngasc.org - 803-254-8456

MSgt (Ret.) Bret Fuller - Accounting Manager
bfuller@ngasc.org - 803-254-8456

Mrs. Tina Cota - Insurance Program Administrator
tcota@ngasc.org - 803-254-8456

1SG (Ret.) James Foley - Insurance Benefits Manager
jfoley@ngasc.org - 803-719-0567

MSgt (Ret.) Sharlene Shuler - Events & Membership Coordinator
sshuler@ngasc.org - 803-254-8456

OFFICERS

CMSgt Robert Hartzog
President (Air)

MAJ Julian Milligan
Vice President (Army)

LTC Joshua Standridge
President-Elect, (Army)

CSM (Ret) Roger D. Marlowe
Chairman, EANGUS (Army)

MSG (Ret) Charles Steele
Chairman-Elect, EANGUS (Army)

MSgt Scotty Austin
Secretary (Air)

TSgt Michael B. Shelley
Treasurer (Air)

LTC Teddy I. Call
Immediate Past (Army)

CMSgt Isaac Carr
(2021-2023) (Air)

CSM Jason Gregory
(2021-2023) (Army)

MAJ Christopher Turner
(2021-2023) (Army)

LTC Michael Jones
(2020-2022) (Army)

1SG Timothy M. Adams
(2022-2022) (Army)

TSgt Adam D. Williams
(2020-2022) (Air)

COL (Ret) James Lockemy
(2021-2023) (Retired Army)

MSG (Ret) Bill Giles
(2021-2022) (Retired Army)

Judy Sturgis
(Spouses Auxiliary)

EXECUTIVE COUNCIL