



December 2023

The Voice of the Guard

76th Annual State Conference

The NGASC will host it's 76th annual state conference in Myrtle Beach March 8-10, 2024! The Hilton Kingston Plantation is in the perfect location, just steps to the beach.

Friday features our Golf Tournament in the morning, Icebreaker event along with the celebrated silent auction by our Spouses Auxiliary, that evening

The keynote speakers this year are U.S. Senator Lindsey Graham and General Craig R. McKinley.

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 of interest to guard members and many will have giveaways.

Registration for this event went live on November 1st.

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 Myrtle Beach in March!



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A word from the Adjutant General

Dear South Carolina National Guard Family:

First and foremost, I want to acknowledge and thank the Soldiers, Airmen, and families of the South Carolina National Guard. Your selflessness and courage in protecting our state and nation is truly commendable and something of which you should be immensely proud. Whether you are serving on missions or supporting operations behind the scenes, your contributions are invaluable. You exemplify the highest ideals of service and sacrifice, and it is because of people like you that our organization remains ready and strong to face any challenge.

This year one of the South Carolina National Guard's goals was to generate mission ready units able to fulfill both their Federal and State roles; specifically, its three main competencies of emergency preparedness/homeland defense, quality Soldier and Family support systems, and innovative technological application. Through meeting this goal, the South Carolina National Guard ensured relevance through the adaptation of its force structure.

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Whether you are serving on missions or supporting operations behind the scenes, your contributions are invaluable

Approximately 10 percent of the South Carolina National Guard was engaged worldwide in five different countries to include Kuwait, Djibouti, Kosovo, Germany, and Colombia. The South Carolina National Guard was also involved in various other missions. Our Soldiers supported the 10th Mountain Division's WARFIGHTER Exercise at Ft. Drum, NY, South Carolina's air defense assets supported to the National Capital Region, our Service Members supported U.S. Army European Command, and supported operations on the Southwest Border. This demonstrates the flexibility of the South Carolina Guardsmen and ability to succeed in federal and state roles.

The 169th Fighter Wing sent 12 F-16s and 220 operators and maintenance personnel to Nellis AFB, Nevada for the annual Red Flag exercise. Red Flag is a large force air combat training exercise centered on readiness and interoperability between joint and allied forces. Together, they form a close-knit community that supports, uplifts, and protects one another. The participating Airmen displayed dedication to our organization and to the principles the South Carolina National Guard stands for. The work of the 169th Fighter Wing is truly inspiring, and its members proudly serve our great nation.

I would like to thank the National Guard Association of South Carolina and its members for their continued advocacy for Service Members of this great state and their families.

R. VAN MCCARTY
Major General, SCNG
The Adjutant General

What my South Carolina National Guard Association has done for me.

As your current South Carolina National Guard President my goal was simply to give back, grow our membership and present more focus on professional development.

The National Guard Association of the United States represented with a tremendous 70% total force in membership. This year we represented exceptionally well at our national conferences. The association is at a point far greater than we have ever been and must continue to grow to set our mark as the fastest growing Army and Air National Guard in the 54 states and territories! Our Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States membership maintains its recognition as the top five in the Nation.

We must ensure your voice is heard in the South Carolina Legislature and in Congress. Here are a few recent accomplishments:

- *TRICARE Reserve Select Access 2030* - Section 701 of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) authorizes, beginning in 2030, access to TRS for federal employees who serve in the National Guard, including National Guard dual-status technicians.
- *Beginning with tax year 2022, all military retirement pay being exempt from South Carolina Individuum Tax. (South Carolina joins more than two dozen states that do not tax military retirement.)*
- SC College Assistance Program (CAP) - Full time students can receive up to \$5,500 per academic year. The lifetime maximum cannot exceed \$22,000. The grant is subject to the availability of funds.

College Scholarships for you and families are provided at each professional organization level. Take full advantage of your membership and benefits.

- NGASC – Presented through the SC National Guard Foundation.
- EANGUS - **CSM Virgil R. Williams Scholarship.** A scholarship of \$2,000 will be awarded to EANGUS members or dependents. Total number of scholarships will be based on contributions to the program. This scholarship is for an undergraduate degree, and previous winners cannot apply. Money is paid directly to the school you are attending and goes towards tuition expenses.
- NGAUS - The AFBA NGAUS Active Life Member Scholarship awards two \$5,000 scholarships every July to Active Life members of NGAUS or dependents of Active Life members seeking an undergraduate, graduate, or post-graduate degree.

This year our 76th Annual Conference for the National Guard Association of South Carolina. (NGASC) will be 8-10 March 2024, in beautiful Myrtle Beach, SC. While the

A word from the NGASC President cont.

53rd Annual Conference for the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS) will be 17-21 August 2024, concluding with 146th General Conference for the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) both happening 21-26 August 2024, located in the Motor City, Detroit MI. Please continue to pursue every effort to join us, as we strive to make history.

We encourage every SC National Guard Officer and Enlisted Soldier to attend a NGASC, NGAUS or EANGUS conference at least once in their career. We are asking that you continuously speak and inform your formations on the benefits and importance of becoming a member. The Soldiers and Airmen are the motivation, as they are hard-working and high achieving young people who are enthusiastic and passionate about their careers. Always remember to invite a friend, the impact to attend will last a lifetime. We are here to introduce you to thorough leaders in your career path and expose you to new ideas to become better professionals in your craft. My favorite part of being a member of our Guard Association is bringing together Guardsmen in a social setting to share goodwill and the understanding of what is important.

Professional Development is how we continue to mentor experiences and opportunities with the understanding to engage Soldiers and Airmen to support their families, friends and citizens of this great state. Networking with peers and leaders within the SC National Guard is our number ONE objective to attending conferences and being involved. Our strength begins with you.

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 continuous support of the National Guard Association of South Carolina.

Get involved, Stay involved!

This is our Association!

Respectfully,
Julian S. Milligan



A word from the Executive Director

From the Chief: Our Legal Basis

By Gen. Daniel R. Hokanson

I was born and raised in Happy Camp, California. Yes, it's a real place. Yes, I'm a Happy Camper. And no, there isn't a single stoplight in the entire town. But what Happy Camp lacks in stoplights it makes up for in mystery and legend. My hometown is known for Bigfoot. Happy Camp is home to four Bigfoot statues and the annual three-day Bigfoot Jamboree.

There are countless questions surrounding Bigfoot: Where do they live? How many are there? How are they so good at hiding? But the mystery, myth and legend of Bigfoot is nothing compared to the confusion and complexity of National Guard duty statuses.

Everywhere I travel, I get questions about duty status in the National Guard — even from Guardsmen and their families.

This confusion is understandable. A simple question like “Who do you work for?” can change from day to day. But that confusion can mean missing out on career opportunities, overlooking details that affect retirement and other benefits or misunderstanding our fundamental mission.

This month, I want to talk about status — what are the different statuses and

why they matter.

The Constitution divides power between the federal government and the state governments. The role of federal forces is defined in Title 10 of the U.S. Code. The role of each state's militia — today's Guard — is defined in Title 32. Together, they provide the legal basis of our organization and our missions.

Both Title 10 and Title 32 deal with how we serve: Who has command authority, what missions we perform, where we serve and — critically — who pays for it all.

In a Title 10 status, the president is our commander in chief and command and control belongs to the combatant commander. Title 10 duty can take place anywhere in the world, and it's paid for by the federal government. Combat operations are obviously Title 10, but overseas training exercises like African Lion also fall under Title 10.

Because these are federal roles on a federal mission, Guardsmen are entitled to federal pay and allowances. All the military professionals that work at the National Guard Bureau are also Title 10, typically as part of what we call the statutory tour program.

In a Title 32 status, the regulations and funding are federal, but command and control is at the state level. A state's governor is commander in chief, and command and control is under the adjutant general. The duty assignment can be in the state itself or across the United States. The federal government pays for Title 32 activities, whether they are a big disaster response or ordinary drill weekends.

With state active duty, the missions, regulations and control are all at the state level. The biggest difference between Title 32 and state active duty is who picks up the check — in this case, it's the state. As a result, the pay and benefits are different, and they are determined by state law. State-level disasters and emergencies, like a local flood or a COVID-related bus driver shortage, are typically state active duty.

These different statuses and what they mean — Title 10, Title 32 or state active duty — can be confusing for Guardsmen, their families and their employers. That's why we're working with Congress to simplify statuses and authorities and address inequities in pay and benefits. But these statuses are also what make the Guard a unique force, capable of any mission.

While our primary purpose is fighting America's wars as the combat reserve of the Army and the Air Force, we don't have to go overseas to serve our nation or make a difference. In fact, most of the time, we serve where we live.

We represent our states, territories and the District of Columbia, and help our communities in times of crisis. We can respond quickly when our fellow Americans need us, because we're already there — the towns where we live, the cities where we work, the counties where our kids go to school.

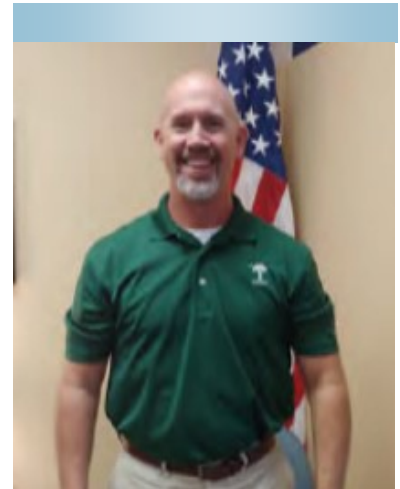
Unlike the active component or the Reserves, our unique statuses and authorities are what allow us to bring our combat skills and equipment to help our neighbors here at home.

Even if we share that home with Bigfoot.

The author is chief of the National Guard Bureau.

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. Unit Leaders can simply call me to invite me to their organization on drill weekend to sign Soldiers and/or Airmen up for this free benefit!

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 evidence of insurability. 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 resulting from combat action or acts of foreign or domestic terrorism.

Don't forget to call our insurance carrier AFBA directly at 1-800-462-7441 anytime your status changes which will affect premium payment via existing allotments 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 Command Chief Warrant Officer

As we reflect on the past year and look to the next, the South Carolina Army National Guard stands proud, embodying resilience and achievement. Our collective accomplishments underscore the dedication and professionalism of each and every member.

Throughout the year, each of you have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to excellence. From successful training exercises to community outreach initiatives to mobilizations, our organizational accomplishments are a testament to the hard work and proficiency of each of you. We know that we would not be successful without a supportive family. Your family's unwavering support has been the bedrock of our success, and we remain committed to fostering an environment that values and supports military families.

While celebrating our achievements, we must remain vigilant. In examining the challenges that loom on the horizon, we cannot ignore the dynamic geopolitical landscape, with a particular focus on the evolving role of China. As we assess the global stage, it is evident that strategic competition and potential threats in the Indo-Pacific region demand our attention and readiness.



*As I reflect on the privilege of serving in this position,
I am filled with gratitude and humility*

While China may take up most of our focus, we must also keep an eye on the events in Ukraine as well as events ongoing in Israel which highlight the persistent regional tensions.

The strength of the S.C. Army National Guard lies in our ability to adapt and overcome. We are forged by resilience, and in times of adversity, we have consistently risen to the occasion. Whether responding to natural disasters or supporting national defense efforts, we remain steadfast in our commitment to duty.

As we conclude this year, let us carry the lessons learned and successes achieved into the future. The S.C. Army National Guard is not merely an organization; it is a community bound by service, honor, and a shared commitment to protect and defend.

As I close, this will be my last newsletter serving as your Command Chief Warrant Officer. As I reflect on the privilege of serving in this position, I am filled with gratitude and humility. It has been a rewarding and challenging experience to have served you and this organization in this capacity.

Melissa and I look forward to seeing you at the 76th Annual State Conference of the NGASC 8-10 Mar 2024 in Myrtle Beach.



A word from the Command Senior Enlisted Leader

Our South Carolina National Guard (SCNG) Total Force Family has successfully achieved another year of outstanding performance! I am honored and grateful to serve with such a dedicated and motivated team of professionals. I look forward to the National Guard Association of South Carolina (NGASC) annual conference each year to hear words of wisdom from guest speakers and retirees, listen to our amazing band, enjoy fabulous food and entertainment, and pay our respect to those that we lost over the past year. Please take the time to unwind and bond with family and friends during the conference.

Over the last year we received a few visits from senior leaders of the National Guard Bureau (NGB) to observe our operations and recognize several of our Soldiers and Airmen for exceeding in work performance. The frequent NGB senior leader visits emphasize the importance of the SCNG in key mission areas, and the appreciation of our readiness and quick response to tasks.

Annually, I am amazed at the Best Warrior Competition (BWC) competitors that challenge themselves to push through mental and physical exhaustion to complete each obstacle. It takes a lot of personal sacrifices and committed training to accomplish each event, and I truly admire each competitor's warrior mindset. I personally want to thank the supervisors, coworkers, and family members that supported the competitors throughout the BWC.

I pray for the safe return for all our deployers and am thankful for their sacrifices

The SCNG members inducted each year into the Enlisted Hall of Fame (EHoF) is a wonderful tribute to honor the inductees military service. The EHoF display at the McCrady Training Center is an absolute must-see. If you enjoy the EHoF display and want to learn more about the history of the SCNG and our heroes, consider visiting the creative exhibits and static displays in the South Carolina Military Museum at the Bluff Road Armory.

I had the opportunity to visit Camp Hannon, Sunset, South Carolina for the Teen Retreat. I provided a live demonstration to teen summer campers on what not to do when ziplining and allowed the camp counselors to practice their rescue procedures (Hopefully, all photographs and videos of the incident have been destroyed). The camp counselors along with Service Member Family Care (SMFC) personnel are shaping our future generations with teambuilding, career counseling, conflict resolution, and life skills that are priceless. The camp facilities, meals, equipment, and activities are state of the art. The campers are in fantastic care and spirits as they form lifelong friendships. I encourage everyone to learn more about the summer camp program opportunities and ways they can support the initiatives.

Our very own Women's Initiative Network (WIN) were award recipients from The Empowering Justice Charitable Foundation at the annual Stellar Ball to honor the life and memory of marine 1LT Justice Regine Stewart. One person's vision at WIN, coupled with coworker's support and leadership buy-in, turned into a successful organization valued in both the military and civilian communities. Continue setting organizational goals and WIN-ing!

A word from the Command Senior Enlisted Leader cont.

I had the opportunity to participate in the annual American Foundation for Suicide Foundation, Out of The Darkness Walk, to recognize military members, family, and friends that passed away due to suicide, as well as show support for those struggling with suicide ideations. I am hopeful the SCNG will have double the participation and support in the upcoming 2024 walk. There were several people comforted by not walking alone in memory of their loved one. I learned a lot from the guest speakers and vendor booth displays on suicide awareness.

The State Partnership Program (SPP) and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) initiatives continue to bring valuable professional development opportunities to the SCNG. Our Colombian Partner Nation provides a different perspective in their day-to-day military operations and learning institutions that enable us to learn as much from them as they do from us. I am appreciative of the increased interest and growth in the SCNGs SPP and WPS programs.

The SCNG has the best Public Affairs Office (PAO) in capturing numerous events occurring throughout our State. The SCNG retirements, promotions, Transfer of Authority, Change of Command/Responsibility, awards & decorations, training demonstrations, holiday events, and deployment ceremonies are well covered by our PAO team. The hard work to create well documented articles and capture key photographs are greatly appreciated by SCNG members to maintain as keepsakes and share with loved ones. Big thanks to our talented PAO personnel!

The SCNGs Joint Operations Center (JOC) helps us prepare for humanitarian assistance and domestic response in preparation for and after natural disasters. The JOC team of educated and experienced personnel enable the SCNG members and their communities to flawlessly prepare and recover from damaging winds and flooding after tropical storms and hurricanes. A standing ovation is in order for the amount of work the JOC puts in to get it right each and every time.

Lastly, I want to take a moment to ask that we keep our deployed members and their families in our thoughts and prayers. It is important to check on both the deployed members and their families to see how we can make the family separation easier and take something off their plate. I pray for a safe return for all our deployers and am thankful for their sacrifices.

A word from the State Command Sergeant Major

The South Carolina Army National Guard has completed another successful year. As we continue to train and prepare to answer the calls of our State and Nation, the focus remains on our strength, readiness and modernization. To ensure this remains our focus, we must keep a close eye on the health, welfare and morale of our Soldiers. The families of our Soldiers also play an important role in the overall success of the organization and their support is appreciated and vital to our mission.

There is a lot going on around the world and it is imperative to keep Soldiers engaged in training exercises that will ensure we are prepared to fight and win our Nation's wars. We will again see multiple deployments, state active-duty call-up, and readiness exercises in which accomplishments will be made through leadership, involvement and accountability from the NCO Corps. Soldiers will continue to operate with the best equipment and be medically and physically fit to deploy. Soldier resiliency will remain at the forefront through constant communication (buddy checks) and training.

Recruiting will continue to be the heartbeat of the Guard's success. People are our biggest asset, and every Soldier is a recruiter. The Guard offers so many opportunities for young people to enhance their lives and the only way the word gets to them is through others that have similar stories and/or experiences to share. The South Carolina Army National Guard affords the ability to give service to something larger than yourself.



The South Carolina Army National Guard is a great place to build a career while gaining life-long friendships.

It is imperative for our Soldiers to support community events and continue building healthy relationships within their communities. Retirees also play a key role in maintaining these relationships. They have earned their place and provided a path for continuous growth. The South Carolina Army National Guard is a great place to build a career while gaining life-long friendships.

The South Carolina Army National Guard will always be a great organization to be a part of and we will all continue working together. Diversity and inclusion will play huge roles in our overall success and both will always be priority from a leadership perspective. Thank you all for what you do every day, as our freedoms are never underestimated. For State and Nation!

Norris McCall
State Command Sergeant Major

A word from the ANG State Command Senior Enlisted Leader

Greetings Guardsmen, Leaders, Warriors!

What is Professional Military Education?

Professional Military Education (PME) is the professional training, development, and schooling of United States military personnel. It encompasses many schools, universities, and training programs designed to foster leadership in military service members. PME covers training and continuing education designed to provide development to members of the military at various points in their career to prepare them for the next level of responsibilities. The U.S. military requires professional education for both officers and enlisted personnel based on service and military role.



Enlisted Professional Military Education Programs

- Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (NCOA)
- Basic Leaders Course (BLC)
- Advanced Leaders Course (ALC)
- Seniors Leaders Course (SLC)
- Senior Non-Commissioned Officer Academy (SNCOA)
- Master Leaders Course (MLC)
- Chief Leadership Course (CLC)
- Sergeants Major Course (SMC)

Officer Professional Military Education Programs

- Basic Officer Leader Course (BOLC)
- Squadron Officer College (SOS)
- Air Command & Staff College (ACSC)
- Air War College (AWC)

What is the Purpose of Professional Military Education?

Our military must be ready to deploy, fight, and win decisively, anytime and anywhere, with joint and multinational partners across multiple domains. Professional Military Education's main purpose is to contribute to the preparation of our military members as they progress through their careers for leadership at the tactical, operational and strategic levels.

Professional military education helps our Soldiers and Airmen develop the management and leadership skills needed to become military professionals and the senior leaders of tomorrow. It is our duty to ensure that we can lead the military through the next major conflict, and this requires all our leaders to be able to learn and to adapt, at all levels.

What are the Benefits of Professional Military Education?

PME provides progressive education opportunities to prepare leaders for increased responsibilities and successful performance at the next higher level. PME produces leaders who are fully competent in technical, tactical, and leadership skills. Formal professional military education (PME) and collective training contribute to developing our Soldiers and Airmen, commanders, and unit leaders in the operating force. Professional military education is central to the continuum of learning that

A word from the ANG State Command Senior Enlisted Leader cont.

spans our entire military career. PME trains leaders how to train their units to maximize lethality and capabilities to obtain overmatch against near-peer threats in a joint operating environment with our sister Services, multinational, intergovernmental, and interagency partners. The continuum of learning is a deliberate process of combining education, training and experiences that prepares you to perform in progressively demanding supervisor, leader and manager positions in dynamic operational environments.

PME sharpens minds, makes us better leaders and is more likely to result in battlefield success. It is incumbent on us all to get involved. Leadership should promote PME to our NCOs, SNCOs, and Officers. By doing this, it will develop them and help to build a bench of future leaders. Learning should never stop. Just because we are in various roles of leadership doesn't mean that we have obtained everything we need to be successful. PME will make you a more effective Soldier or Airman, a better follower, and as you progress, it will make you a better leader. By becoming a better follower, you obtain the knowledge and skill needed to become a leader.

Our SCNG is the best trained and led force to take the field. Through excellence in training and leader development, we will stand shoulder to shoulder with the Joint Force, allies, and partners to protect our Nation's interests and uphold our shared values.

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
Command Senior Leader
State Command Chief
South Carolina Air National Guard

A word from the EANGUS Chairman

Greetings to all,

I was elected to EANGUS Chair last year at the Annual State Conference in Myrtle Beach. We have made it through COVID and everything is taking a while to return to normal, it will never be the same (It's almost like 911). We have had soldiers and airmen deployed around the world over this past year. It has been tough for the families to manage day to day life while the spouse has been deployed. Your ASSOCIATION has paid out several death claims over the past twelve months. I attend the Columbia Chapter of Retirees each month and they call out the names of soldiers and airmen that have passed since the last meeting. We have around eight to one hundred attendees each month. We meet the last Tuesday of each month, except December, at the First Presbyterian Church downtown Columbia at 7 am until around 9. It's a very good breakfast for seven dollars.

In February, Bill Giles, Larry Crowson, and two airmen, and I went to Washington for the Legislative Workshop. There was a lot of old business that was being pushed on the Hill to be approved and passed while they were in session. They also discussed some new legislation that needed to be presented to the legislators. They also showed two prints that were available for purchase to raise money for the National home office there in DC.

In May the EANGUS Area III Caucus was held in St. Augustine, Florida. We had twelve representatives from SC at this meeting. There we discussed the upcoming National EANGUS Conference that would take place in Rochester, Minnesota later in August. There were some legislative matters that we discussed and decided unanimously to approve. The hot topic was about membership and how we can get more soldiers and airman joining and getting involved with EANGUS.

Membership in any organization such as EANGUS is an important factor. The more members the organization has the louder we can be heard in Washington. The membership dues are nominal in comparison to other organizations. Here below, I have listed the fees for NGASC and EANGUS.

NGASC- National Guard Association of South Carolina

Lifetime \$100 vs. \$5 Annual

EANGUS- Enlisted Association of Nation Guard United States

Lifetime \$130 vs. \$13 Annual

In August we convened in Rochester, Minnesota for the National EANGUS Conference. We had eight members form SC represented at the conference.

We are looking forward to our state conference for 2024. It will be back in Myrtle Beach at the Kingston Plantation Hilton Resort. It will be March 8-10. Register before December 31 to receive the early bird registration. This should be another great conference and look forward to seeing you all there.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Stephen Steele
EANGUS Chairman

A word from the Retirees

2023 Retiree Report

COL (Ret) James E. Lockemy

MSG (Ret) Bill Giles

NGASC Retiree Reps

We hope everyone enjoyed the Thanksgiving Holiday this year. Sometimes we forget how significant Thanksgiving is as an American holiday. President George Washington first proclaimed “a day of public thanks-giving” on November 26, 1789. He asked us with “grateful hearts” to acknowledge the many blessings God has bestowed upon this nation and the sacrifices of so many to realize those blessings—in other words the many who had given or were willing to give that last full measure of devotion for the freedoms we enjoy even today. So we hope you had an opportunity to gather at Thanksgiving and give thanks to God and those who have served our nation for more than two centuries, these numbers include you, in securing our freedoms so we could enjoy a bountiful meal and a wonderful setting with family and friends.

We hope you have received notice of the Annual Retiree Briefings the Adjutant General’s office is doing around the State over the next several months. Please try and attend one of these briefings to stay up to date on services available to you and to keep current on things going on in our South Carolina National Guard. The following are the scheduled dates and times of these Briefings:

January 18, 2024---Charleston Readiness Center

February 08, 2024---Spartanburg Armory

February 22, 2024---Florence Armory

March 14, 2024-----Columbia Armory

April 15, 2024-----Spartanburg Armory

The briefings will take place from 0700-1100 hours. Any questions should be directed to 803-299-5487 or email at SCNGRetireeMeeting.com.

We will be returning to Myrtle Beach this year for our annual NGASC Conference. The dates are March 8-10, 2024. We all had a wonderful time last year on the Grand Strand and look forward to seeing everyone again this year. We now have a command section for our Retirees and are included in the roll call for attendance on Saturday to start the Conference. Please be there and ready to yell out our traditional “Still Alive” to let everyone know the NGASC Retirees are in the House and ready to serve.

On Saturday morning please attend our annual breakfast which will be at the hotel. We will get a special report from Major General McCarty, our Adjutant General, of the state of the Guard and a thank you for all we continue to do to support our brothers and sisters still actively serving. Also

A word from the Retirees cont.

at that meeting, we elect our Retiree Representative to serve on the Executive Council. According to our NGASC Constitution, the retirees, and the retirees only, choose their representative on the Council. This year, MSG (Ret) Bill Giles who has served us as a hard working and faithful representative for several years has decided not to seek reelection. Therefore, we will choose a new representative for a two year term. We need someone, like MSG Giles, who is willing and able to serve this organization actively and with the interests of its members, especially the retirees, at heart.

A major part of the conference is the formal military banquet on Saturday night. As retirees, we play a key role in the banquet activities. An important part of the evening will be the recognition of the NGASC Retiree of the Year with his/her family. Please join us that night to help recognize the Retiree of the Year and to show the important impact of the retirees in the National Guard Association of South Carolina. See you AT THE BEACH!!!

We continue to try and update the places and times of local retiree meetings around the state. Please send us any information you have about meetings in your area to the emails listed at the end of this report.

Finally, it is important we keep up our membership in NGASC. Please keep your membership current and encourage other National Guard Retirees to join. Stay active! Continue to make an impact! You gave many years of your life to serving this state and our great nation—continue to do so; we need you.

It is our honor to represent our retirees on the Executive Council of the National Guard Association of South Carolina. If you need us, please contact us at the email below.

COL (Ret) James E. Lockemy

newtownjames@boone.net

MSG (Ret) Bill Giles

Wgiles002@gmail.com

NGASC 76th Annual Conference

- [illegible]



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 **serving 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 #s: MAT Pol and LT050197 (Rev). NGASC Article R0321

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