



THE VOICE OF THE GUARD

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

www.ngasc.org

DECEMBER 2025



2026 Annual NGASC Conference Hilton Beachfront Resort & Spa Hilton Head Island, SC March 13-15, 2026

**You must be a current member of NGASC, NGAUS, or EANGUS to attend.
Your 2026 dues must be paid!**

**Online Registration is open now! Early Bird Conference Price until 12/31/25.
VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO REGISTER at WWW.NGASC.ORG**

Special Guest Speaker: Maj Gen (Ret) Brett Wyrick, Deputy Federal Air Surgeon, FAA
Golf Tournament PGA Golf Course
at Palmetto Dunes on Friday, 13 March 2026
Retiree Breakfast
Spouses Auxiliary Brunch & Silent Auction
Professional Development featuring Frank Raines
and Constitution Scholar Don Dunbar
Saturday Night Awards and Banquet
Under the Boardwalk - Theme for the Banquet



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The Adjutant General of South Carolina



Adjutant General of SC
MG Robin Stilwell

Dear National Guard Association of South Carolina, I want to take a moment to express my sincere gratitude to the association's members, Soldiers, Airmen, Retirees, and family of the South Carolina National Guard. As the 30th Adjutant General, it is my privilege to have been entrusted with leading SCNG during a challenging and rewarding year. Your unwavering commitment to duty and support have made a profound impact. Throughout 2025, the South Carolina National Guard has demonstrated extraordinary flexibility, serving not only the people of South Carolina, but also supporting national and international operations in areas of critical need. Our Service Members and families exemplify

selfless service and sacrifice. From protecting airspace abroad to assisting with border security and responding to devastating natural disasters, our National Guardsmen respond wherever they are called.

This year, the South Carolina National Guard provided vital support to local agencies during the Covington Drive and Table Rock Wildfires. The Covington Drive Fire became the longest-lasting wildfire in state history, burning for 95 days, while the Table Rock Complex Fire marked the costliest wildfire response in state history. Simultaneously, the South Carolina National Guard maintained a high operational tempo, with the 51st Military Police Battalion deployed to Poland and Battery B, 2-263rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion, providing critical air defense capabilities in Syria, marking the first combat deployment for a South Carolina Air Defense unit in recent history.

The 169th Fighter Wing, South Carolina Air National Guard (SCANG), headquartered in McEntire Joint National Guard Base deployed for training to Ramstein Air Base in Germany. While the 169th Civil Engineer Squadron firefighters completed structure fire training at Yokota Air Base in Japan. Additionally, the South Carolina Air National Guard participated in Relámpago de los Andes, a U.S.-Colombia joint training event which enhances tactical interoperability under NATO standards and strengthens the longstanding partnership between the South Carolina National Guard and the Colombian military.

The South Carolina National Guard provided support to III Armored Corps and 4th Infantry Division exercises and provided Observer Controller/Trainer support at Ft. Irwin and Ft. Polk.

The Adjutant General of South Carolina CONTINUED

South Carolina Army National Guardsmen from the 1055th Transportation Company and 132nd Military Police Company, 59th Troop Command, were deployed in support of U.S. Customs and Border Protection as part of the federal Southwest Border Mission. This deployment was followed by a request from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to assist U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) in enforcing immigration laws, with personnel assigned to various administrative roles. Additionally, over 250 Guardsmen mobilized to Washington, D.C., to support federal law enforcement activities under President Donald J. Trump's executive order aimed at restoring law and order in the District of Columbia.

More than ever, the National Guard Association of South Carolina's commitment has been critical to promoting the welfare of National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and supporting national security. Your tireless advocacy in fostering and improving the South Carolina National Guard as a vital component of the Armed Forces has been immeasurable. Your dedication to preserving the rich history and traditions of the South Carolina National Guard and ensuring that those who have served, are serving, and will serve our great nation are supported, advocated for, and honored does not go unnoticed.

On behalf of the South Carolina National Guard Staff and Command Group, I want to thank each member of the National Guard Association of South Carolina for supporting the National Guard's strategic priorities and for being the resounding voice of the Citizen Soldier.



#Proudly We Serve

Our Executive Director



Executive Director
Lawrence Crowson

I want to take a moment to express my gratitude for your membership with the South Carolina National Guard Association (NGASC) and share with you why your membership truly matters.

As a member of the NGASC, you are part of a vibrant and dedicated community that is committed to supporting, advocating for, and advancing the interests of our National Guard members and their families. Your membership directly contributes to our mission of ensuring that the men and women of the South Carolina National Guard receive the recognition, support, and resources they need and deserve.

But your membership with the NGASC is not just belonging to a community, it's about being part of a large movement that extends beyond state lines. By joining the NGASC, you also have the opportunity to become a member of the National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) and the Enlisted Association of the National Guard of the United States (EANGUS).

These national organizations offer a multitude of benefits and resources to their members, including networking opportunities, professional development resources and legislative advocacy efforts. By joining NGAUS and EANGUS, you can amplify your voice on issues that matter to you and your fellow National Guard members, both in South Carolina and across the country.

Your membership matters because it empowers you to make a difference in the lives of our National Guard community. It gives you a voice, a platform, and a network of support to help you succeed in your military career and beyond.

Thank you for your continued support of the NGASC, NGAUS, and EANGUS. Your membership matters, and we are grateful to have you as part of our community.

Respectfully,
Lawrence W. Crowson
Executive Director



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NGASC Executive Council President



Executive Council President
LTC (Ret) Michael Jones

Dear Members, Partners, and Friends of the South Carolina National Guard,

As I stepped into the role of President this year I knew it was going to be a time of change with a new incoming TAG. MG McCarty had been an exceptional TAG and supporter of the South Carolina National Guard and the association, but I have to say it was a nearly seamless transition between MG McCarty and MG Stillwell. That is a tribute to the tremendous leadership of MG McCarty, MG Stillwell and their support staff. MG Stillwell has also shown great dedication and support of the association, and I appreciate that as the president of the association. As we close out another impactful year,

I am honored to share this year-end report on the state of the National Guard Association of South Carolina (NGASC). This year has been marked by continued service to our communities, steadfast dedication to our Guard members, and collaborative efforts that strengthen the readiness and resilience of our state's National Guard Association. I have to say a special thanks to our immediate past president CMSgt Isaac Carr. As the president last year he and his team did an excellent job guiding and directing the association and left us in great shape going into this year. CMSgt Carr and the board approved some changes to our NGASC Member life insurance program. This program helps to quickly cover a member and their family in the event of a tragedy, and it also helps to generate funding for our association. The changes to the program have been a success for the association and our members

Our mission remains clear: to support the men and women of the South Carolina National Guard, advocate for their welfare and professional development, and foster unity among our members and partners. This year, we advanced that mission through our continued membership growth. Our goal is and always will be to achieve 100+% membership. Some of you may ask how we get to over 100% membership. It's simple when we purchase a lifetime membership (not at the retiree rate) we are able to count that member for the duration of their life even after they retire from the National Guard. If you are not a lifetime member the NGASC can't count your membership after you retire. Some states have been over 120% for many years, and we look forward to reaching 100% National Guard Association of the United States (NGAUS) this year.

With your help we believe that goal is achievable. Our Enlisted National Guard Association (EANGUS) numbers are growing, but we need your help. As a retiree of the SC National Guard I am committed to our retirees and encourage all my fellow retirees to continue to participate in the association even after retirement.

Many of us retirees have seen the benefits of the Soldiers serving in the National Guard change over the years, but much of that can be attributed to the work of the associations at the State and National levels. Another key part of our association is our spouses auxiliary, and for them we are eternally grateful for all their hard work. We have expanded partnerships with local communities, Veterans groups, and industry partners to amplify our impact as we continue to grow our corporate partnerships. Hopefully, you were able to attend the 77TH Annual State Conference on Hilton Head Island this past March. It was a great success, and so much so we plan to do it again on Hilton Head Island. If you have not already registered for the 78TH Annual State Conference which will be held 13-15 March 2026 on Hilton Head Island I encourage you to go to www.NGASC.org website and do so. If you have attended the conference in the past I am sure you know it is a time to get together and reunite and enjoy one another's fellowship, and a time to get much of the work of the association accomplished. For spouses there is also time to get to know one another, and we have outings especially planned for you.

I also want to recognize our full-time staff for the amazing job they do. Our Executive Director Larry Crowson and his staff Bret, Jill, and Stuart do an amazing job of supporting the board of directors, myself and the members of the NGASC.

Transparency and stewardship guide our financial practices. This year, we focused on prudent budgeting, cost controls, and strategic investments to maximize impact for our members. I believe we are as strong financially as we have been in a very long time.

I want to express my deepest gratitude to our elected officers, board members, committee chairs, volunteers, and staff for their tireless dedication. To our guardsmen and women, thank you for your service, resilience, and daily sacrifices. To the families who stand behind you, your support makes our work possible. And to our partners and sponsors, your generosity and collaboration amplify our shared mission.

Our success is a reflection of the collective strength of the NGASC family. As we enter 2026, I am confident that, together, we will continue to serve with integrity, lead with purpose, and build a brighter future for the South Carolina National Guard Association and the communities we protect.

With deepest appreciation and renewed commitment,

LTC(R) Michael (Mike) Jones
President
South Carolina National Guard Association

CONGRATULATIONS



It is with great honor to announce
the 2024-2025 NGASC Scholarship Recipients.
Each recipient will receive \$1000.00
from the following sponsors:



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Nathaneal Cronk



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Althea Faulknham



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ANG State Command Senior Enlisted Leader



ANG State Command Senior
Enlisted Leader
CMSgt Rob Hartzog

Season's Greetings, South Carolina National Guard Family!

As we approach the end of 2025, I would like to take this opportunity to reflect on our accomplishments within the South Carolina Air National Guard, reinforce our commitment to our mission, and celebrate the spirit of the season together. This newsletter serves as a reminder of our shared mission and the values that unite us as we embark on a new year.

A Legacy of Honor and Service

The storied legacy of our National Guard is deeply rooted in honor and service. This year, the South Carolina Air National Guard (SCANG) has demonstrated exceptional

readiness to excel in our mission, earning distinction at every turn. Our clear mission—to organize, train, equip, and deploy mission-ready airmen—continues to guide our efforts, ensuring we maintain peak readiness in the face of any challenge.

We are driven by our core values: integrity, service before self, and excellence in all that we do. Our commitment to fostering a culture of collaboration and mutual respect has allowed us to develop a formidable force capable of overcoming obstacles and achieving remarkable success at every level.

Cultivating the Next Generation of SCANG Airmen

Reflecting on my journey as a young airman, I recognize the immense impact that great mentors had on my development. Their lessons in leadership by example inspired me to strive for excellence. As your Command Chief, I am committed to instilling that same leadership ethos within the SCANG. It is our duty to surround every airman with role models who exemplify the right values and empower the next generation to surpass their own achievements.

This past year has seen significant progress in developing our enlisted force. SCANG leadership tasked our senior enlisted leaders with cultivating mid-level leaders capable of running operations independently, years ahead of traditional career timelines. I am proud to report that we are ahead of schedule in achieving this critical goal. The exceptional growth we have witnessed—marked by volunteerism, teamwork, and the nurturing of future leaders—has exceeded our expectations at every level.

ANG State Command Senior Enlisted Leader, CONTINUED

Wellness and Connectedness

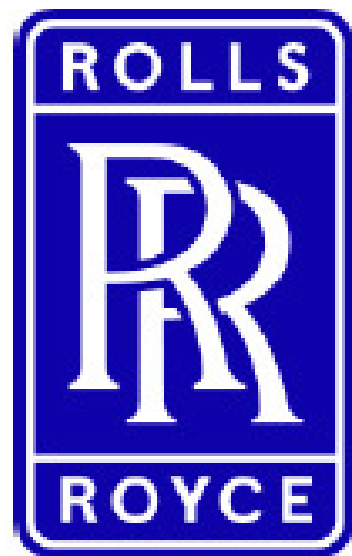
As we navigate the holiday season, it is vital to take time to relax and recharge with our loved ones. This time of year can be particularly challenging for some, and we encourage everyone to look out for our loved ones and fellow guardsmen who may be struggling with feelings of loneliness or despair. A simple outreach can make a significant difference; let's remind each other that we are not alone.

Support is always available through our mental health services, chaplains, and various helping agencies dedicated to assisting you and your families. Please don't hesitate to reach out for help when needed. Together, we can ensure that everyone feels supported and connected during this season. A simple conversation or a five-minute phone call to check on someone could change their life.

Closing Wishes

As we conclude this year, I extend heartfelt holiday greetings to each of you. May your holidays be filled with joy, safety, and prosperity as we look forward to a new year. I sincerely appreciate the hard work and sacrifices made by our National Guardsmen, and every member of the South Carolina Air National Guard family. Thank you for your unwavering dedication and service. Together, let's continue to uphold the values that define us as the Swamp Fox and write the next chapter in our proud legacy of service.

Wishing you a safe and happy New Year!
In your service,
Robert L. Hartzog
State Command Chief Master Sergeant
South Carolina Air National Guard



SCNG COMMAND SENIOR ENLISTED LEADER (CSEL)



Command Senior Enlisted Leader
CMS Norris McCall

The South Carolina National Guard concluded FY25 with yet another stellar year. As the TAG's internal priorities begin and end with "people", we continue to keep our Soldiers and Airmen at the forefront of everything we do. Our Soldiers and Airmen remain ready to answer the call when needed. This is evident in their current roles performing various missions around the state, nation and abroad.

The families of our Soldiers and Airmen continue to play key roles in the success of each service member as well as the organization. Their commitment and sacrifice never goes unnoticed. Our Service Member Family Care (SFMC) continues their excellent work

ensuring all service members and their families have the most up to date resources while also keeping the organization visible in the community.

Our Recruiting and Retention Teams finished FY25 with a bang. Our Air National Guard Recruiters set the standard as one of the tops in the nation and the Army National Guard Recruiters had the best year the battalion has had in more than a decade. The South Carolina National Guard offers unmatched opportunities for young people to kick-start their adult lives. It is imperative for all in uniform to continue sharing their stories and experiences.

The South Carolina National Guard will continue to build healthy relationships and credibility in our communities. Our Retirees are vital in maintaining these relationships. They have outlined and path for current Soldiers and Airmen to follow. This organization remains a great place to build a career while gaining life-long friendships. I truly appreciate every Soldier and Airmen. Your efforts are important in protecting our freedoms!

For State and Nation

Norris K. McCall
Senior Enlisted Leader

Command Chief Warrant Officer



Command Chief Warrant Officer
CW5 Martin D. Jennings

With the conclusion of another successful year and the preparation for the upcoming new year and missions, I want to commend the South Carolina Army National Guard (SCNG) for its steady spirit and remarkable achievements during multiple Deployments and State Active Duty. The commitment and professionalism demonstrated by every member have been instrumental in our success, and I am proud to be part of such an outstanding team. Together, let us continue to build on this momentum and strive for excellence in all that we do.

As we take pride in our achievements, it is imperative that we maintain our focus and readiness in response to the ever-changing operational environment. We must recognize the challenges that lie ahead throughout the World. Our determined commitment to readiness is essential as we

stand prepared to support our State and Nation during any conflicts or natural disasters that may arise.

The strength of the SCNG Warrant Officer Cohort continues to grow, and I'm pleased to report that our numbers are on the rise. This year, we successfully completed our third Warrant Officer Accession Program (WOCAP), resulting in five candidates who are currently progressing through Phase I of the Warrant Officer Candidate Course (WOCS). I am proud to announce that our overall strength is currently at 89% capacity, which is a testament to the dedication of the entire Cohort.

The SCNG Warrant Officers are among the finest in the field. Our levels of readiness, outstanding reputations, successes, and valued insights are truly unparalleled. In today's Large Scale Combat Operations (LSCO) environment, Warrant Officers (regardless of MOS) will provide Commanders with enhanced freedom of action, extended operational reach, and prolonged endurance. The Cohort stands strong and ready to tackle any task that comes our way.

In closing, as we reflect on the past year and the extraordinary achievements of the South Carolina Army National Guard, we must also look forward with resolve and anticipation. The collective effort and dedication of our members have positioned us for continued success in the face of future challenges. With our Warrant Officer Cohort growing stronger and our innovative initiatives taking root, we are well-equipped to respond effectively to the needs of our State and Nation. Let us uphold our commitment to excellence, ensuring that we remain prepared and adaptable in today's ever-evolving landscape. Together, we will continue to excel, standing ready to serve honorably and effectively in every mission we undertake.

CW5 Martin D. Jennings
Command Chief Warrant Officer

National Guard Life Insurance Benefits Briefer

New State Sponsored Life Insurance Enhancements for South Carolina National Guard Members

In a heartening move to boost the well-being of our dedicated service members, the South Carolina National Guard has unveiled significant enhancements to its State Sponsored Life Insurance program. These new benefits offer increased coverage, a game-changer for our steadfast soldiers and airmen who put their lives on the line every day.



National Guard Life Insurance
Benefits Briefer
CCM(Ret) Dean Widener

These improvements are the result of relentless efforts by the National Guard Association, which has passionately advocated for better benefits. Their dedication means that premiums remain affordable, ensuring that every member of the South Carolina National Guard can access this invaluable life insurance plan.

To keep everyone in the loop, the National Guard Association has rolled out an annual briefing system. This ensures that each unit has the chance to enroll or adjust their benefits, tailoring coverage to meet their unique needs.

2025 has been a standout year for the South Carolina National Guard. The successful implementation of enhanced benefits underscores the unwavering commitment of both the Guard and the National Guard Association to our soldiers and airmen. We look forward to continued growth and collaboration in the promising years ahead, especially as we march towards 2026. As one of the benefit briefers and a retired Guard member, I am enthusiastic about providing these important briefings. Thank you for your service and dedication to our state and nation.

Wishing you and your family a safe and Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



NGAUS Capitol Summit- a personal perspective

Last year, Lt Badri Francis and I both had the opportunity to attend Capitol Summit, the NGAUS Company Grade Officer professional development event held at Capitol Hill. Then, as a young lieutenant, I learned the impact that advocacy and legislative priorities can have from the state-level on the national budget. There is no other venue that I know of for a CGO to learn the process of how state priorities become legislative priorities, advocated for by NGAUS and our congressional representatives, to have an impact on the resources our force uses train and fight. We spent time with previous Adjutant Generals and multiple General Officers sharing their perspectives on Capitol Hill engagement strategies, had a panel of Congressional Staff provide mentoring in their areas of expertise, and of course explored DC's wealth of historical knowledge with multiple team-building events. More importantly, CGOs from across the Army and Air National Guard were given the opportunity to advocate for issues directly related to the ANG mission, with each breakout group being assigned a legislative priority to brief to two congressional representatives and their staff on Capitol Hill. This is a unique development opportunity that few officers receive and is well worth the commitment.

I feel much better prepared after attending Capitol Summit to advocate for our state's congressional priorities at both a state level and a national level. I also have a better understanding of how priorities and requests move through the authorization and appropriation processes and the impact our congressional engagements have.

If you're a CGO and haven't volunteered to attend a Capitol Summit, I highly recommend you consider throwing your name in the hat for the next opportunity!

Capt. Brittany Thomas
SCANG



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Saturday, Mar 14
9:45-12:00

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With Us!*



2026 NGASC AUXILIARY *Spouses Brunch*

Join us as we set sail from Harbour Town for a cruise around Hilton Head Island. Enjoy a delicious brunch buffet, open cash bar, and fellowship with other National Guard spouses. It's sure to be a fun morning!

- * Register with your Servicemember's conference registration
- * Must request a bus seat when registering, or use your own transportation



Ticket Price Includes:

- ✓ Private bus transportation to & from Harbour Town, sponsored by SCNG Federal Credit Union
- ✓ 90-minute cruise on the Spirit of Harbour Town
- ✓ Full buffet brunch

Questions?
Email info@ngasca.org



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WHAT IS NOT ALLOWED: BATHING SUITS, BATHING COVER UP, SHORTS, HALTER OR CROP TOPS, ETC.

IF YOU CHOSE NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN THE “UNDER THE BOARDWALK” THEME, YOU MAY WEAR EVENING GOWN, COCKTAIL DRESS, ASU, AGSU, MILITARY SERVICE DRESS UNIFORM, OR SUIT.

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- PRESENTATION OF MINUTE MAN PLAQUE AT THE ANNUAL BANQUET DINNER
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- TWO REGISTRATIONS TO OUR STATE CONFERENCE (INCLUDES ALL BANQUETS AND RECEPTIONS AND TWO RESERVATIONS FOR THE FRIDAY GOLF TOURNAMENT)
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- RECOGNITION ON THE CORPORATE MEMBERSHIP PLAQUE AT THE NGASC HEADQUARTERS

ANDREW PICKENS MEMBERSHIP \$2000

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- TWO REGISTRATIONS TO OUR STATE CONFERENCE (INCLUDES ALL BANQUETS AND RECEPTIONS)

WILLIAM MOULTRIE MEMBERSHIP \$1,000

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- YOUR COMPANY LOGO WILL BE DISPLAYED ON OUR WEBSITE ALONG WITH A HYPERLINK TO YOUR COMPANY WEBSITE
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May 1-May 3, 2026

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NGASC is hosting the EANGUS Area III Caucus for 2026
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Rooms \$132.00+ taxes per night

All Resort and Parking Fees have been waived for our conference.

For more information or to register contact:

JillFuller@NGASC.org

EANGUS 2026 NATIONAL CONFERENCE

BEGINS: JULY 30, 2026
ENDS: AUGUST 4, 2026



PLEASE PLAN TO BE A PART OF OUR
SC DELEGATION
PLEASE CALL NGASC 803-254-8456



NGAUS

THE 148TH GENERAL CONFERENCE
& EXHIBITION IN INDIANAPOLIS, IN
AUG. 28-31, 2026



PLEASE PLAN TO BE A PART OF OUR
SC DELEGATION
CALL NGASC AT 803-254-8456 FOR
MORE INFORMATION



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 #: MAT Pol and LT050197 (Rev).

NGASC Article R0321



NGASC

NATIONAL GUARD ASSOCIATION OF SOUTH CAROLINA

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To apply for a position on our 2026 executive board please visit our website
www.ngasc.org/forms FORMS MUST BE TURNED IN BY 2/1/2026