

House Ways and Means Constitutional Subcommittee Budget Hearing



**Office of The Adjutant General
Major General Robin B. Stilwell**

15 January 2026

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TAB 1

Office of The Adjutant General

Key Attendees

Major General Robin B. Stilwell

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Colonel Dwight (Marty) Hanks

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Larry Crowson

Executive Director, National Guard

Association of South Carolina

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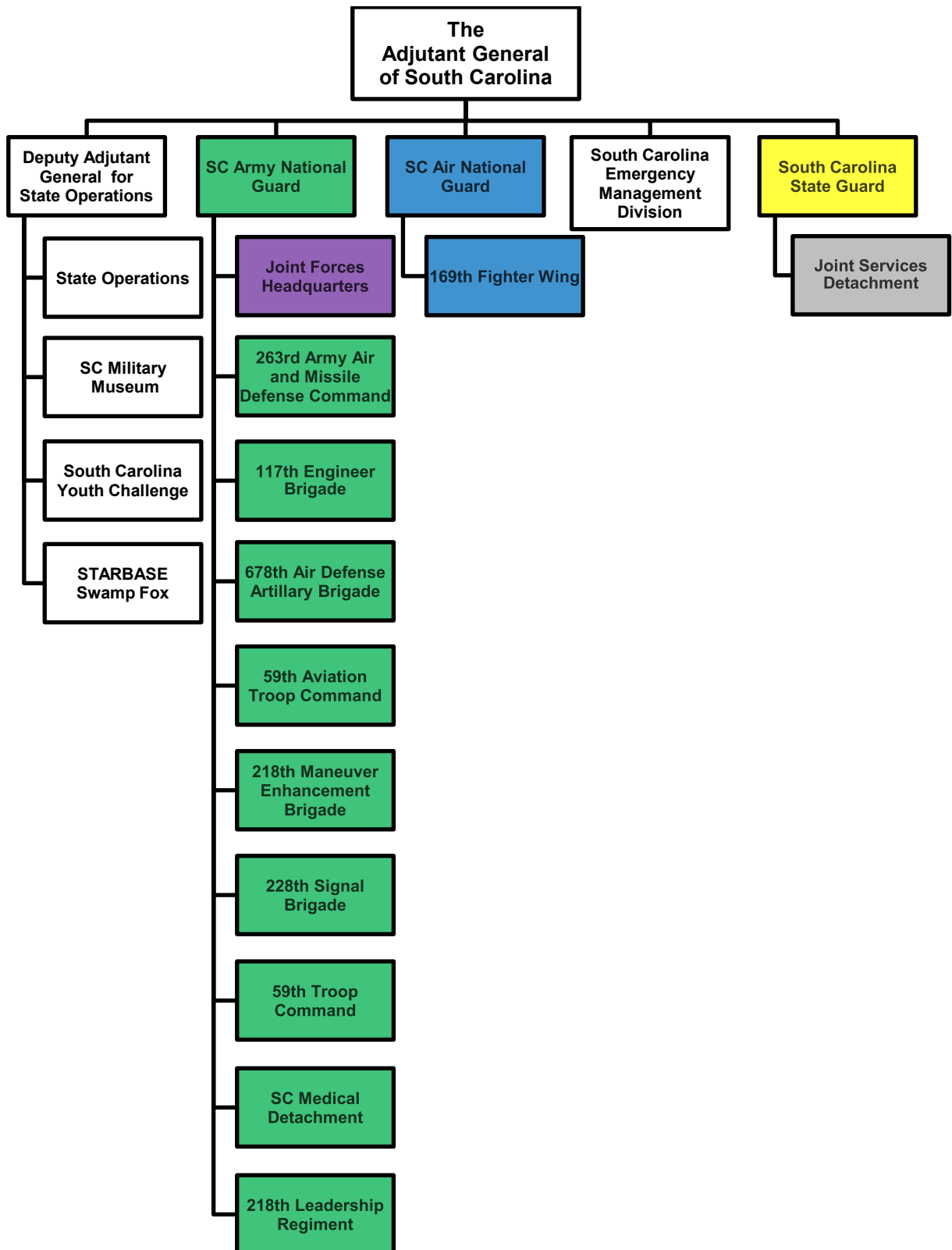
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TAB 2

Office of The Adjutant General

Organizational Chart



TAB 3

OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL

Agency Information

The Office of the Adjutant General has a total strength of over 13,000 Service Members, State and Federal employees, and volunteers with responsibility for over 234 facilities statewide (62 Readiness Centers, and 172 other facilities and buildings). The Agency employs 473 (01 Jan 2026), and is the parent State Agency for a number of subordinate organizations which include:

- SC Army National Guard
- SC Air National Guard
- SC State Guard
- SC Emergency Management Division
- SC Military Museum
- Youth Challenge Program
- STARBASE Swamp Fox

Missions

- Maintain and grow relevant force structure in the South Carolina National Guard
- Establish a consolidated joint, interagency, intergovernmental, multinational Emergency Operations Center concept of operations
- Provide for the safety, health, and wellbeing of the citizens, residents, and visitors of the State of South Carolina

Budget Request Information

FY 25-26 Beginning Appropriation Base - State Funds	\$21,360,895
FY 25-26 Total Appropriations Include Allocations	\$120,564,468
FY 26-27 Requested State Funds - Recurring	\$10,889,000
FY 26-27 Requested State Funds - Non-Recurring	\$37,000,000
FY 26-27 Requested State Funds – Capital Non-Recurring	\$10,565,000

Direct Economic Impact

The Agency's 2025 State Budget was \$19.3M. However, in FY 2025 the Agency provided a total of over \$434.1M in direct economic impact to the State's economy, and an additional \$127.2M in direct economic impact outside of the State (over \$561.2M total).

TAB 4

FY 26-27 Budget Priorities Summary												
Office of the Adjutant General												
Budget Priorities				Funding					FTEs			
Priority No.	Priority Type (Recurring / Non-Recurring / Other Funds adjustment / Federal Funds adjustment)	Priority Title	Priority Description	Recurring	Non - Recurring	Other	Federal	Total	State	Other	Federal	Total
1	Recurring	SC National Guard & Employee Support Services	<p>Allocation and Recurring funding of five (5) FTEs to continue to provide Behavioral Health, Veteran Advisors/Transition Assistance and Employment Services for members of the SC National Guard and other members of the Active and Reserve Component military, Veterans, Agency Employees, and Family Members.</p> <p>Service Member and family member suicides continue to be an issue even in the National Guard. Since 2008, the SCNG has suffered 44 suicides from active National Guard members. In addition, 13 family members of active National Guard members committed suicide. Since just 2000, the Behavioral Health Program provided 24,010 consultations, 2,707 referrals, and conducted</p> <p>Beginning in 2011 when the SCNG had a 15% unemployment rate, the Employment Services has assisted with 11,666 job placements. Based on an estimated annual income of \$34K, this has had a \$393.4M impact on SC's economy. And the SCNG currently has <1% unemployment rate vs. 2024 SC Veteran Unemployment Rate of 4.2, 2024 National Veteran Unemployment Rate of 2.9%, and SC BLS Unemployment Rate (Aug 2025) of 4.3%.</p> <p>During FY2024, the Behavioral Health Services provided assistance to over 5,700 Service Members or their families, Veterans, and Agency employees at a cost savings of over \$640K saving for participants, and the Employment Services and VA Assistance Services generated approx. \$24M in additional income for the State through job placements and assistance with VA claims.</p> <p>These critical services were previously provided by the Federally funded Beyond Yellow Ribbon (BYR) Program.</p>	\$540,000				\$540,000	5			5
2	Non-Recurring	SCEMD - SC Public Assistance Program	<p>Allocation of additional Non-Recurring funding for the SC Public Assistance (PA) Program.</p> <p>The Federal Government has proposed changes to Federal PA programs for next year which would significantly increase the State's PA threshold (Currently \$9,673,823.25). Internal memos received from FEMA indicate they are projected an increased SC threshold of approx. \$38.8M (a 400% increase). This will also result in increased thresholds for the counties. State Agencies, counties, local governments, and non-profit electric cooperatives will be eligible for reimbursement of eligible costs under the State PA program. Other non-profit organizations will not be eligible.</p>		\$37,000,000			\$37,000,000				0

Budget Priorities				Funding					FTEs			
Priority No.	Priority Type (Recurring / Non-Recurring / Other Funds adjustment / Federal Funds adjustment)	Priority Title	Priority Description	Recurring	Non - Recurring	Other	Federal	Total	State	Other	Federal	Total
3	Recurring	McEntire ANG Base – State Firefighters	<p>Allocation of Recurring State funding of three (3) currently unfunded Federal FTE positions, and to convert those position to State funded FTE positions. The positions will provide additional firefighter augmentation to the McEntire Joint National Guard Base (JNGB) Fire Department which supports the airfield operations, facilities and units located at McEntire JNGB.</p> <p>The McEntire JNGB Fire Department is currently authorized 26 Federally funded firefighter positions. However, NGB has reduced the number of funded positions to 24 positions which leaves 22 operational firefighters available for assignment across three 24-hour shifts which meets the minimum staffing of 7 firefighters per shift under ideal conditions.</p> <p>However, the minimum staff does not allow for long-term operations when accounting for normal absences (e.g., leave, sick leave, training, etc.). Maintaining the required 7 firefighters available to respond has become increasingly unsustainable. It critically narrows the margin for shift coverage, significantly increases the frequency and cost of callback/overtime, and relies heavily on excessive overtime to meet the Federal manning mandate.</p>	\$279,000				\$279,000	3		-3	0
4	Recurring	Increase in Armory Revitalization Funding	<p>Increase of in Recurring funding to support Armory Revitalizations.</p> <p>The costs of construction has increased by approx. 30% when compared to FY21 average costs. The Agency is currently appropriated \$3.072M of Recurring Operating funds for Armory Revitalizations. This request would raise the recurring Armory Renovations budget to \$7.072M. Federal matching funds can provide an additional 50/50 cost share for these funds, up to the limits of the State and/or Federal allocations, which would effectively doubling the impact of the State's investment.</p>	\$4,000,000			\$4,000,000	\$8,000,000				0
5	Non-Recurring Capital	SCEMD - State EOC Construction	<p>Allocation of additional Non-Recurring Capital funding to fully fund the expansion of the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC). The expansion will include expansions of the SC National Guard's Joint Operations Center (JOC), and increased facility parking.</p> <p>Phase I of the project was approved and completed resulting in an A&E estimate of \$31.093M for construction, furniture and information technology requirements, and an increase of approximately \$78K for annual utilities costs.</p> <p>SCEMD has received a total of \$14.5M in Federal Grant funding for the project. The Agency received \$6.251M in State Non-Recurring funding as part of the FY24-25 Budget.</p> <p>Dominion Energy has agreed to provide \$342K in Other Funds for the Project. Total funding received is \$21.093M.</p>		\$10,000,000	\$342,000		\$10,342,000				0

Budget Priorities				Funding					FTEs			
Priority No.	Priority Type (Recurring / Non-Recurring / Other Funds adjustment / Federal Funds adjustment)	Priority Title	Priority Description	Recurring	Non - Recurring	Other	Federal	Total	State	Other	Federal	Total
6	Recurring	SCEMD - Emergency Management State Supplement	<p>Allocation of Recurring funding to Recurring funding to supplement its critical the Federal EMPG funding stream.</p> <p>Over the past eleven (11) years, the State of South Carolina has been impacted by thirteen (13) major disasters. The human and economic impacts of these events clearly indicate the need for strong and robust State and local level emergency management systems. And State-level EMPG-like funding is key to maintaining the required level of operational capability. These funds are critical to maintaining core capabilities including personnel, planning, training, logistics, and operational readiness at both the State and county levels. Without this funding, the continuity and effectiveness of South Carolina's emergency management infrastructure would be significantly compromised.</p> <p>The requested State appropriation would mitigate the significant impact of federal realignment or elimination of FEMA and their Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG) which has provided approximately \$6 Million annually to support SC's Emergency Management Division and the 46 county emergency management programs across the State. Reductions of 9.1% in funding in FYs 24 & 25 have already had a measurable and detrimental impact on emergency management operations statewide.</p>	\$6,000,000				\$6,000,000				0
7	Recurring	SC Military Museum - Curator of Community Engagement (Development)	<p>Allocation and Recurring funding of one (1) currently unfunded Federal FTE position, and to convert the position to a State funded FTE position. The position would support the SC Military Museum's expanding mission and need for a focus on development and broad community engagement.</p> <p>The request will provide funding for one (1) Full-Time employee to address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) Developing internal capacity to grow the regional audience (b) Cultivating resources to increase digital access to the collection (c) Increasing visitor awareness (d) Building corporate partnership support for public programs and exhibitions. 	\$70,000				\$70,000	1		-1	0
8	Non-Recurring Capital	State Guard - Dominion Building Repairs	<p>Allocation of Non-Recurring State funding to repair and upgrade to the Dominion Building (previous Combined Support Maintenance Shop) located in Columbia, SC and currently occupied by the SC State Guard.</p> <p>The funds will provide for replacement of the HVAC and boiler, installation of circulation fans over the central floor, and pressure washing and contaminant removal in the central floor area.</p> <p>This will allow the State Guard to relocate their Military Academy from McCrady Training Center in Eastover, SC, and provide a centralized location for the State Guard to conduct operational and logistical training. The move will eliminate the on-going challenges to coordinating training support on Ft Jackson/McCrady Training Center. This will also provide the State Guard a centralized storage site for vehicles, boats, and equipment that they cannot be stored at the Olympia Armory due to available storage constraints.</p>		\$565,000			\$565,000				0
Total				\$10,889,000	\$47,565,000	\$342,000	\$4,000,000	\$62,796,000	9	0	-4	5

TAB 5

Constitutional Subcommittee Proviso Request Summary FY 26-27				
Proviso # in FY 25-26 Act	Renumbered FY 25-26 Proviso #	Proviso Title	Short Summary	Agency Recommended Action (Amend, Delete, Add)
100.24	100.24	ADJ: SC Public Assistance Program	<p>The Office of the Adjutant General requests a change to the existing Proviso.</p> <p>The modification would allow State Agencies, local governmental agencies and non-profit electric cooperatives to be eligible to be reimbursed by the SC Public Assistance Program for unbudgeted response and infrastructure repair costs for hazard events that cause severe damage but do not meet thresholds/criteria for a Federal disaster declaration. It would also authorize SCEMD to use up to 5% of the appropriated funds to manage the PA Program.</p> <p>This request is related to the Budget Priority # 2 - Request for Non-Recurring Appropriation - "SCEMD - SC Public Assistance Program".</p>	Amend
117.140	117.137	GP: National Guard College Assistance Program	<p>The Office of the Adjutant General requests a change to the existing Proviso.</p> <p>The modification would increase the lifetime maximum amount for the College Assistance Program to not to exceed \$32,000.</p> <p>Service members would be eligible to receive college assistance program benefits up to an amount equal to one hundred percent of tuition and fees not to exceed twelve thousand dollars for the academic year for a total of eight (8) full semesters.</p>	Amend
117.190	100.179	GP: Transfer of Physical Assets	<p>The Office of the Adjutant General requests to delete the existing Proviso.</p> <p>The transfer of the facility from the SC Department of Administration Office to the Office of the Adjutant General as authorized by the Proviso is complete.</p>	Delete

TAB 6

FY25 Agency Budget Execution

Description	FY 25 Appropriation	FY 25 Actuals **	Executed	% Executed	Carry Forward
Administration	\$ 3,077,863.00	\$ 4,574,454.00	\$ 4,500,438.00	98.38%	\$ 74,016.00
Armory Operations	\$ 4,000,004.00	\$ 4,733,210.23	\$ 4,029,909.63	85.14%	\$ 0.00 ##
Armory Revitalizations	\$ 2,550,000.00	\$ 2,364,437.82	\$ 2,364,437.82	100.00%	\$ 0.00 ##
Building and Grounds	\$ 220,286.00	\$ 243,524.11	\$ 243,304.46	99.91%	\$ 219.65
Armory Contract Support	\$ 196,128.00	\$ 120,174.31	\$ 116,810.40	97.20%	\$ 3,363.91
Youth & Job Challenge	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 895,000.00	\$ 893,894.30	99.88%	\$ 1,105.70
McEntire ANG Base	\$ 446,862.00	\$ 419,206.86	\$ 415,694.71	99.16%	\$ 3,512.15
Emergency Preparedness	\$ 3,412,309.00	\$ 3,703,463.48	\$ 3,672,597.87	99.17%	\$ 30,865.61
State Guard	\$ 1,786,863.00	\$ 1,166,862.50	\$ 833,298.28	71.41%	\$ 333,564.22
Military Museum	\$ 396,147.00	\$ 338,057.79	\$ 336,368.12	99.50%	\$ 1,689.67
Employee Benefits	\$ 2,229,417.00	\$ 2,128,467.00	\$ 1,902,014.93	89.36%	\$ 226,452.07
TOTALS	\$19,115,879.00	\$20,686,858.10	\$19,308,768.52	93.34%	\$ 674,788.98

** Includes Carry Forward and Realignment

Per Provisos 100.14 & 100.23 funds remaining for Armory Operations and Armory Revitalizations are Special Carry Forwards

FY26 Agency Budget Execution

(as of 11 Dec 2025)

Description	FY 26 Appropriation	FY 26 Actuals **	Current FY 26 Executed (7/1/25-12/11/25)	% Executed	Remaining
Administration	\$ 3,182,118.00	\$ 5,980,124.14	\$ 1,918,712.20	32.08%	\$ 4,061,411.94
Armory Operations	\$ 4,884,307.00	\$ 4,834,306.64	\$ 2,437,103.00	50.41%	\$ 2,397,203.64
Armory Revitalizations	\$ 3,072,000.00	\$ 3,273,012.18	\$ 3,273,012.18	100.00%	\$ 0.00
Building and Grounds	\$ 220,286.00	\$ 225,286.00	\$ 125,030.37	55.50%	\$ 100,255.63
Armory Contract Support	\$ 196,128.00	\$ 196,128.00	\$ 61,825.00	31.52%	\$ 134,303.00
Youth & Job Challenge	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 538,262.00	67.28%	\$ 261,738.00
McEntire ANG Base	\$ 446,862.00	\$ 446,862.14	\$ 214,489.14	48.00%	\$ 232,373.00
Emergency Preparedness	\$ 4,466,264.00	\$ 3,496,264.00	\$ 1,567,027.00	44.82%	\$ 1,929,237.00
State Guard	\$ 1,380,863.00	\$ 1,380,863.00	\$ 492,918.03	35.70%	\$ 887,944.97
Military Museum	\$ 426,927.00	\$ 426,927.00	\$ 181,048.91	42.41%	\$ 245,878.09
Employee Benefits	\$ 2,284,944.00	\$ 2,394,413.00	\$ 962,282.00	40.19%	\$,432,131.00
TOTALS	\$ 21,360,699.00*	\$ 23,454,186.10	\$ 11,771,709.83	50.19%	\$ 11,682,476.27

** Includes Carry Forward and Realignment

Carry Forward Funds

Carry Forward Funds

2025	Agency Carry Forward	\$ 664,044.20			Agency Operations
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Special Carry Forward Funds

2025	Armory Operations (Recurring)	\$ 860,313.55	0200.000000.000	100.25	Maintenance and repairs of Readiness Centers
2024	Armory Revitalizations (Recurring)	\$ 3,273,012.18	0200.030000X000	100.15	Clemson and Seneca Readiness Centers Revitalizations
2024	Armory Revitalizations (Non-Recurring)	\$ 2,859,242.88	9807.750000X000	118.19(B)(63)(b)	Clemson and Seneca Readiness Centers Revitalizations
	Standalone Kitchens	\$ 107,547.00	9807.720000X000		Turn In - NGB did not fund the Federal Match
2016	Service Member and Family Cost Funding	\$ 185,494.49	9802.630000X000	118.15(B)(50)(c)	Payroll for part-time Mental Health provider(s)
2020	McEntire JNGB - Land Management	\$ 2,184,550.00	9806.760000X000	118.16(B)(18)(c)	On-going land purchases
2022	SC Military Museum - Public Outreach	\$ 450,690.28	9806.790000X000	118.18(B)(69)(e)	Military Museum Greenspace Project - Construction in progress
2023	State Guard - Renovation of Olympia Armory	\$ 111,485.00	9829.060000x000	118.19(B)(74)(c)	In Progress - Completing punch list items for Olympia Armory
2024	Joint Base Charleston Readiness Center	\$ 464,000.00	9807.890000X000	118.19(B)(63)(e)	Reconciliation of design for Joint Base Charleston
2024	USC Aiken - National Guard Cyber Facility	\$ 3,000,000.00	9807.910000X000	118.19(B)(63)(f)	Construction begins in 2026
2024	Aiken Readiness Center	\$ 6,531,133.00	9808.770000X000	118.19(B)(63)(a)	Construction begins in 2026

SC Military Department

FY 2025 Direct Economic Impact

	Total	In South Carolina	Outside of South Carolina
Total Personnel	12,804	11,857	947
Total Personnel	\$388,899,087	\$369,951,986	\$18,947,101
Building Construction/Maintenance	\$19,678,709	\$15,758,882	\$3,919,828
Utilities	\$6,544,405	\$4,363,559	\$2,180,846
Medical	\$7,042,612	\$1,923,368	\$5,119,243
Contracts	\$4,410,147	\$2,426,195	\$1,983,952
Purchases	\$59,330,073	\$32,700,787	\$26,629,286
Education	\$336,249	\$187,600	\$148,649
All Other Significant Procurement and Purchase Categories	\$74,967,493	\$6,664,238	\$68,303,256
Total Direct Economic Impact	\$561,208,775	\$433,976,614	\$127,232,162

*** - Does not include the economic impact of the income from the full-time employment (non-National Guard) of members of the National Guard

Armory Revitalizations

Description	State Share	Federal Share	Total
Complete			
Greenwood Readiness Center	\$1,799,808.00	\$1,799,808.00	\$3,599,616.00
Lancaster Readiness Center	\$2,148,691.00	\$2,148,691.00	\$4,297,382.00
Greenville Readiness Center	\$2,223,107.00	\$2,223,107.00	\$4,446,214.00
Florence Readiness Center	\$2,232,110.00	\$2,232,110.00	\$4,464,220.00
Sumter Readiness Center	\$248,061.00	\$3,294,463.00	\$3,542,524.00
Easley Readiness Center	\$2,014,972.00	\$2,014,972.00	\$4,029,944.00
Under Construction			
Laurens Readiness Center	\$3,150,811.00	\$3,150,811.00	\$6,301,622.00
Union Readiness Center	\$3,328,495.00	\$3,328,495.00	\$6,656,990.00
Olympia Armory	\$4,058,300.00	\$0.00	\$4,058,300.00
Wellford Readiness Center	\$2,652,094.00	\$2,652,094.00	\$5,304,188.00
Hartsville Readiness Center	\$2,749,508.00	\$2,749,508.00	\$5,499,016.00

Description	State Share	Federal Share	Total
In Design			
Clemson Readiness Center Renovations	\$306,000.00	\$306,000.00	\$612,000.00
Seneca Readiness Center Renovations	\$306,000.00	\$306,000.00	\$612,000.00
Projected 2025-2026			
Clemson Readiness Center Renovations <i>(Based on Cost Estimate prior to bids due)</i>	\$3,523,258.00	\$3,523,258.00	\$7,046,516.00
Seneca Readiness Center Renovations <i>(Based on Cost Estimate prior to bids due)</i>	\$3,765,504.00	\$3,765,504.00	\$7,531,008.00
Manning Readiness Center Renovations - DESIGN ONLY	\$325,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$650,000.00
Orangeburg Readiness Center Renovations - DESIGN ONLY	\$325,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$650,000.00
SFY26 Total	\$7,938,762.00	\$7,938,762.00	\$15,877,524.00

TAB 7

Office of The Adjutant General
FTE Breakdown (as of 06 Jan 2026)

	State	Federal	Other	Total
Budgeted	64.430	55.270	17.800	137.50
Filled	61.195	48.180	17.625	127.00
Difference	3.235	7.090	0.175	10.50

TAB 8

House Ways and Means Constitutional Subcommittee Budget Hearing



Office of the Adjutant General
15 January 2025

The Military Department of South Carolina

MISSION

Provide ready forces to conduct operations that support and defend our fellow citizens, the Constitution of the United States of America and South Carolina, whenever and wherever the threat arises or the need exists

VISION

The South Carolina Military Department will be a premier organization of diverse Soldiers, Airmen and Civilians who are Ready, Relevant, Resilient and Responsible to our Communities, State and Nation in time of need - led by Competent, Capable, Caring and Professional (C3P) leaders.

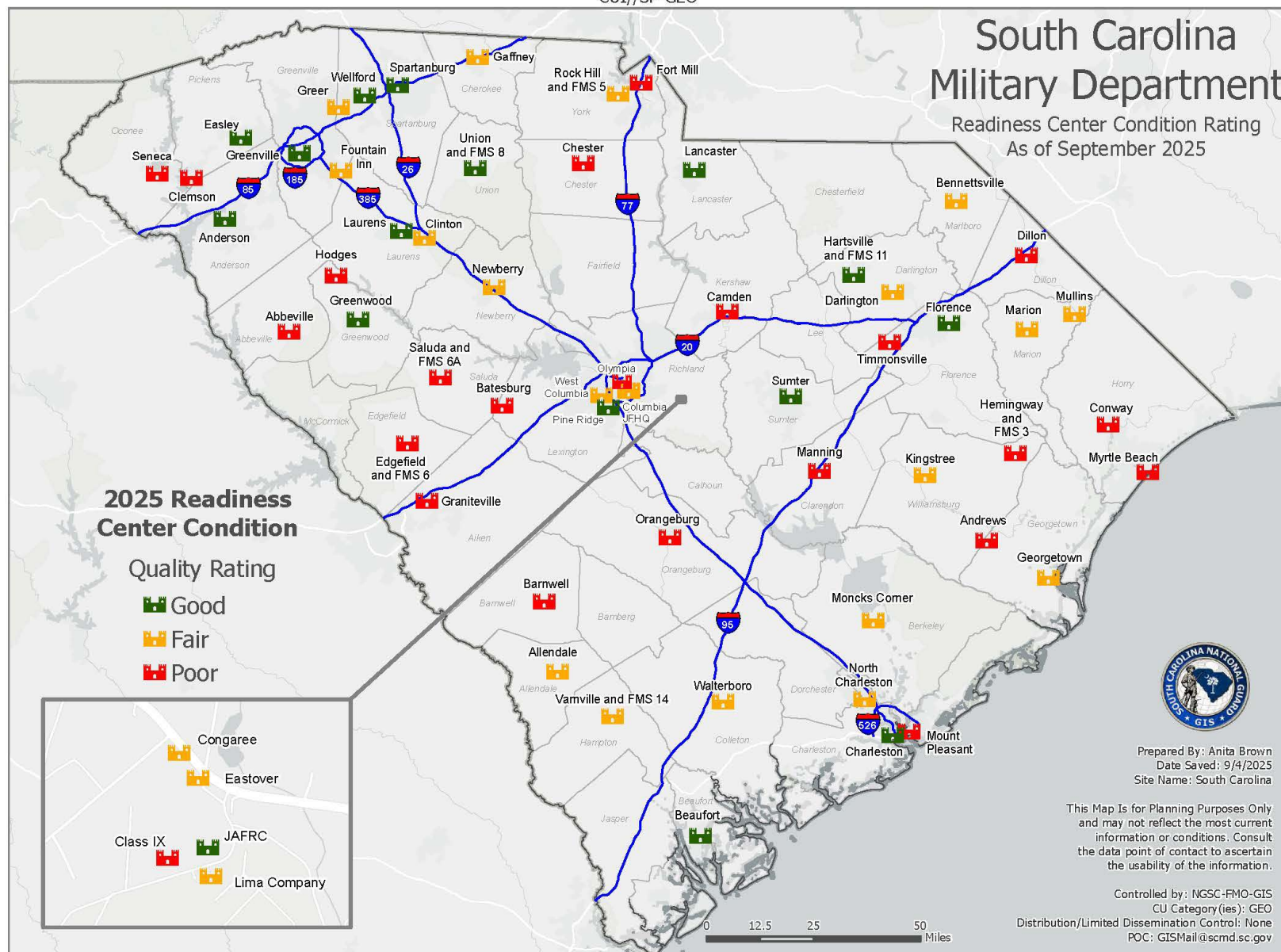
GOALS

Sustain an extraordinary organization, consisting of Army, Air and State Operations, in support of the State and its communities, not only in times of emergency but also in the daily activities of communities and their citizens. Aligned with its strategic plan, Palmetto Horizon, the S.C. Military Department continued working toward the achieving the organization's strategic goals:

- Maintain and grow relevant force structure in the South Carolina National Guard
- Establish a consolidated joint, interagency, intergovernmental, multinational Emergency Operations Center concept of operations
- Provide for the safety, health, and wellbeing of the citizens, residents, and visitors of the State of South Carolina

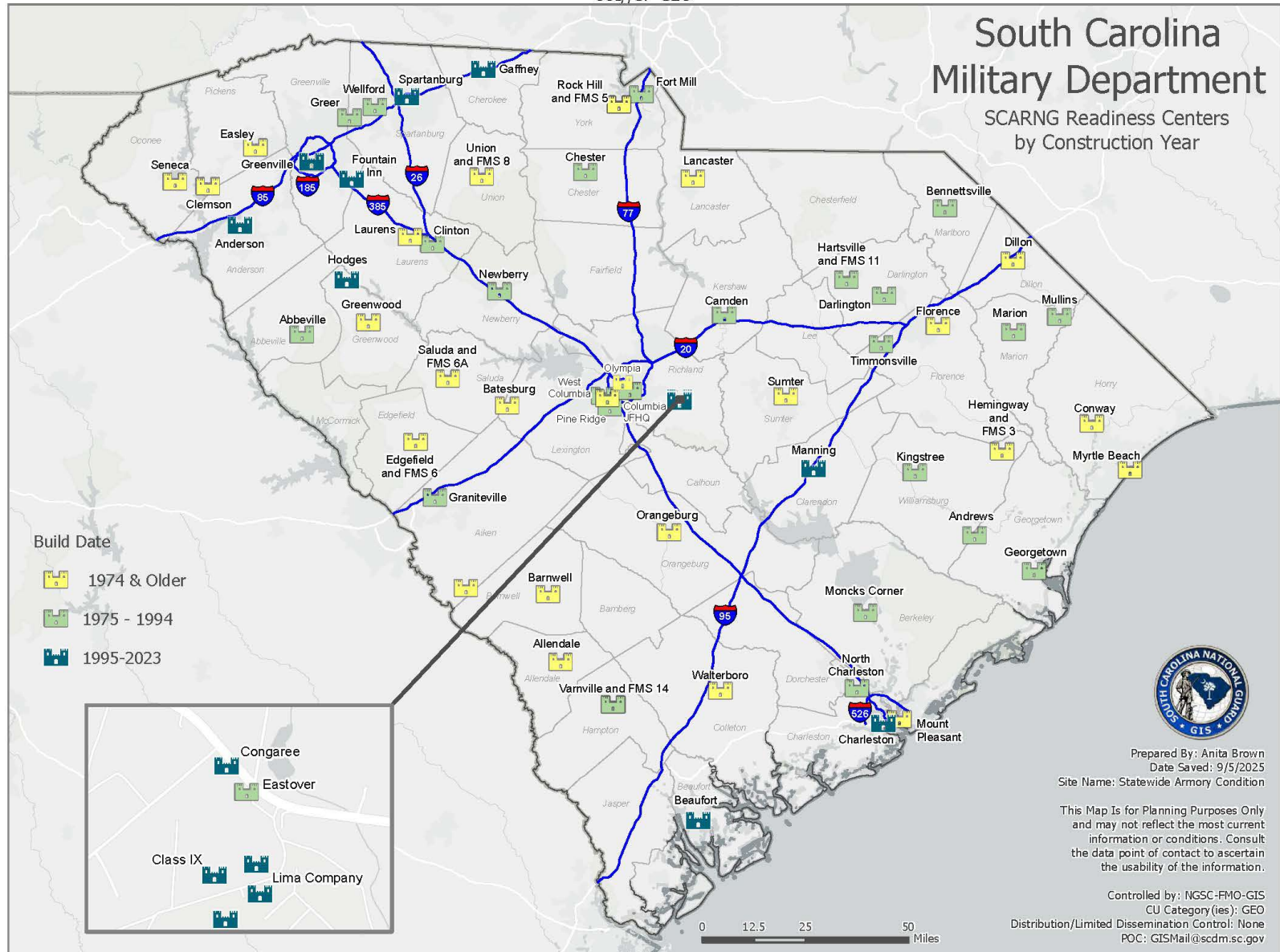
Facility Locations & Conditions

CUI//SP-GEO



Age of Armories

CUI//SP-GEO



State Budgeted Renovation Dollars vs. Readiness Center Renovation Projects

State FY	Renovation Projects - Allocated State Funds				Renovation Projects - Expenditures		
	Recurring	Non-Recurring	Capital Reserve	Total	State Share	Federal Share	Total
SFY12	\$0	\$250,000	\$0	\$250,000	\$78,750	\$166,250	\$245,000
SFY13	\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$500,000	\$112,607	\$112,607	\$225,214
SFY14	\$0	\$650,000	\$0	\$650,000	\$641,077	\$840,184	\$1,481,261
SFY15	\$0	\$1,000,000	\$1,332,500	\$2,332,500	\$1,685,956	\$1,995,323	\$3,681,279
SFY16	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$0	\$1,500,000	\$122,167	\$122,167	\$244,334
SFY17	\$0	\$0	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	\$609,186	\$609,186	\$1,218,372
SFY18	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$1,659,858	\$1,659,858	\$3,319,716
SFY19	\$1,550,000	\$0	\$3,000,000	\$4,550,000	\$4,038,773	\$4,038,773	\$8,077,546
SFY20	\$1,550,000	\$2,000,000	\$0	\$3,550,000	\$2,561,485	\$2,561,485	\$5,122,970
SFY21	\$1,550,000	\$0	\$0	\$1,550,000	\$0	\$3,046,402	\$3,046,402
SFY22	\$2,550,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	\$3,550,000	\$2,042,329	\$2,042,329	\$4,084,658
SFY23	\$2,550,000	\$2,500,000	\$0	\$5,050,000	\$803,105	\$544,805	\$1,347,910
SFY24	\$2,550,000	\$4,500,000	\$0	\$7,050,000	\$10,020,729	\$6,220,729	\$16,241,458
SFY25	\$2,550,000	\$0	\$3,300,000	\$5,850,000	\$5,112,913	\$5,112,913	\$10,225,826
SFY26	\$3,072,000	\$2,800,000	\$0	\$5,872,000	\$7,650,000	\$7,650,000	\$15,300,000
<i>Projected SFY27</i>	\$3,072,000				\$7,650,000	\$7,650,000	\$15,300,000
<i>Projected SFY28</i>	\$3,072,000				\$7,650,000	\$7,650,000	\$15,300,000

FY 2025-2026

Major Renovation Projects

2025-2026			
Clemson Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements)(<i>Based on Cost Estimate prior to bids due</i>)	\$3,523,258.00	\$3,523,258.00	\$7,046,516.00
Seneca Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements)(<i>Based on Cost Estimate prior to bids due</i>)	\$3,765,504.00	\$3,765,504.00	\$7,531,008.00
Manning Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements) - DESIGN ONLY	\$325,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$650,000.00
Orangeburg Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements) - DESIGN ONLY	\$325,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$650,000.00
SFY26 Total	\$7,938,762.00	\$7,938,762.00	\$15,877,524.00

FY 2026-2027

Projected Major Renovation Projects

Projected 2026-2027			
Manning Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements)	\$3,500,000.00	\$3,500,000.00	\$7,000,000.00
Orangeburg Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements)	\$3,500,000.00	\$3,500,000.00	\$7,000,000.00
Hodges Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements) - DESIGN ONLY	\$325,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$650,000.00
Fountain Inn Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements) - DESIGN ONLY	\$325,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$650,000.00
SFY27 Total	\$7,650,000.00	\$7,650,000.00	\$15,300,000.00

FY 2027-2028

Projected Major Renovation Projects

Projected 2027-2028			
Hodges Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements)	\$3,500,000.00	\$3,500,000.00	\$7,000,000.00
Fountain Inn Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements)	\$3,500,000.00	\$3,500,000.00	\$7,000,000.00
Graniteville Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements) - DESIGN ONLY	\$325,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$650,000.00
Newberry Readiness Center Renovations (Facility Envelope Repairs, Facility Interior Repairs & Pavements) - DESIGN ONLY	\$325,000.00	\$325,000.00	\$650,000.00
SFY27 Total	\$7,650,000.00	\$7,650,000.00	\$15,300,000.00

Military Department Highlights

- During FY25, the Office of the Adjutant General demonstrated its ability to meet its response and recovery mission requirements by responding to and/or coordinating assistance efforts for one tropical storm (Tropical Storm Debby), one Hurricane (Hurricane Helene), one flooding event (Edisto River), and two wildfire events (Horry and Pickens/Greenville Counties).
- In addition, the Agency responded to a total of thirteen EMAC support missions to other States. These included eight missions to North Carolina in support for Hurricane Helene, and five missions to Florida in support for Tropical Storm Debby and Hurricane Milton.

Military Department Highlights

- SCEMD continues to serve as the State Coordinating Agency for the State responses. In addition, SCEMD continued to support on-going recovery operations from the 2015 Severe Flood, 2016 Hurricane Matthew, 2017 Hurricane Irma, 2018 Hurricane Florence, 2019 Hurricane Dorian, 2020 February Severe Weather and April Tornadoes, 2020-2021 COVID Pandemic, 2022 Hurricane Ian, and 2024 Tropical Storm Idalia.
- Since 2014, SCEMD has processed \$1.4B in eligible Public Assistance (PA) reimbursements (for response costs and public infrastructure repairs/rebuilding) and more than \$88.2M in pre- and post-disaster Hazard Mitigation Grant projects.

Military Department Highlights

The Construction and Facilities Maintenance Office (CFMO):

- Awarded \$13M in construction contracts for renovations to the Wellford and Hartsville Readiness Centers.
- Awarded designs contracts for renovations to the Clemson and Seneca Readiness Centers at a cost of \$1.7M.
- Completed female restroom additions at Eastover, Marion, and Varnville Readiness Centers at a shared State and Federal cost of \$1.2M, and awarded design contracts for the addition of female restrooms at Georgetown and Mullins Readiness Centers at a shared cost of \$80K.
- Completed renovation to the Olympia Armory (State Guard) at a State cost of \$4M.
- Began construction of a new Readiness Center on the USC-Aiken campus at a projected cost of \$20M.

Military Department Highlights

- The Youth Challenge Program is a community-based, quasi-military structured educational program.
 - During this past year, 130 cadets graduated from the program with 58 earning their GED, 26 participating in Credit Recovery and returning to public high school, and 4 who earned a High School diploma.
 - Since its inception in 1998, the Program has graduated 5,241 cadets, 1,968 earning their GED.
- The Job Challenge Program provides hands-on job skills training through college trade courses as an optional follow-on program for selected Youth Challenge Program graduates.
 - During this past year, the Program graduated 63 associates who earned certifications from Midlands Tech in Welding, HVAC, Information Technology or Medical Administrative Assistance. In addition, two associates received their certifications from Southeastern Esthetics Institute.

- Since inception in 2016, the Job Challenge Program has graduated 338 associates who have completed college credit hours or skills training in areas such as HVAC, Welding, Construction, IT and Medical Administrative Assistance.
- In early 2025, the National Guard Bureau made the decision to regionalize the offering of the Job Challenge Program, and chose Georgia as the host state for the Southeastern Job Challenge Program which will be located at Ft. Stewart, GA.
- While as of 30 June, the SC Job Challenge Program is no longer be available at the SC Youth Challenge Academy, graduates of the SC Youth Challenge Program will be offered the opportunity to apply for the Southeastern Job Challenge Program.

Military Department Highlights

- STARBASE Swamp Fox, a DoD sponsored Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) program for 5th grade students is designed to augment, enhance, and reinforce the State's educational curriculum and standards. The Program acts as a catalyst for encouraging students' future interest and studies in STEM subjects and career focus.
 - In the 2024–2025 school year, DoD STARBASE Swamp Fox served 592 fifth-grade students onsite and reached thousands more through outreach initiatives.
 - The Program also offered two separate weeks of summer camp, serving rising 5th-8th grade students.
 - During the school year, the Program continued to be challenged due to increased transportation costs and reduced bus driver availability in the participating school districts which resulted in several short notice cancellations.

Military Department Highlights

- The South Carolina Military Museum continued its mission to preserve the legacy of the Palmetto State's military history, build community partnerships, expand the facility footprint, and improve the visitor experience.
- The Museum's visitor numbers for FY25 were just under 14,000 and the K-12 education program reached over 4,500 students.
- The Museum's internal social media marketing plan saw over 76,500 users reached, and the subscriber rate to the Museum's eNewsletter stands at 1,453 individuals.
- The Museum developed new programs and streamlined the Museum's educational resources, including digital content, free downloadable lesson plans, in addition to material for the Museum's second year of summer camps.
- Visits to schools throughout the region continued, as did K-12 field trips, tours and homeschool programs, which were offered at no cost to teachers and with content that addressed SC curriculum standards.

- The Museum formed a new partnership with the Experience Columbia Visitor Center to provide marketing content at their location in The Vista.
- Additionally, the Museum partnered with SCMD's Survivor Outreach Services to host over 30 family members for a Gold Star Mother's and Family's Day Reception.
- The Museum hosted the War Songs Festival, a music event featuring a wide variety of musicians with a focus on Revolutionary War-era music. The public event was funded in part by grants from the SC Arts Commission and the SC250 Commission.
- The Museum was awarded a Handumy Jean Tahan Internship through the Southeastern Museums Conference, which funded an 8-week internship during the spring.

Military Department Highlights

- The SC Army National Guard (SCARNG) continued its mission is to generate mission ready units able to fulfill both its Federal and State missions and ensure relevance through the adaptation of its force structure to meet the challenges of the 21st century.
- Approximately 4% of the SCARNG was engaged worldwide. The SCARNG's focus of deployments over the last year centered on supporting United States European Command in Poznan, Poland. The 51st Military Police Battalion deployed as the Task Force lead with elements from around the United States to support the European Defense Initiative through NATO. In total, 140 SC Soldiers supported US operations in Poland and Syria.
- Additionally, Battery B, 2-263rd Air Defense Artillery Battalion was sent to Syria to provide Air Defense capabilities for the United States Central Command area of operations, and was the first Air Defense unit from SC to see combat in recent history.

- Additionally, the SCARNG supported ongoing operations by sending 250 Soldiers from the 132nd Military Police Company and the 1055th Transportation Company to the U.S.'s Southwest Border, and by provided 39 Soldiers for Air Defense support to the National Capital Region's Operation Vigilant Shield.
- The SCARNG was also involved in various Continental U.S. based missions, such as supporting the III Armored Corps WARFIGHTER Exercise at Fort Hood, TX, and the 4th Infantry Divisions WARFIGHTER at Fort Carson, CO. Additionally, the SCARNG provided multiple units to support the 34th Infantry Brigade Combat Team's Joint Readiness Training Exercise at Ft. Polk, LA, the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team's Combat Readiness Exercise at Ft. Stewart, GA, and Observer Controller/Trainer duties at the National Training Center, Ft. Irwin, CA and the Joint Readiness Training Center, Ft. Polk, LA.

Military Department Highlights

- The 169th Fighter Wing continued to provide continual support of the Aerospace Control Alert Mission, defending east coast air space in support of North American Aerospace Defense Command (NORAD). Additionally, the Wing provides the Governor with defense assistance to the State's homeland security office, and disaster preparation and response support for Defense Support to Civil Authorities Activities (DSCA).
- This year the Wing supported Operation NOBLE EAGLE. 260 Wing personnel supported Presidential support missions across the US. In addition, SCANG personnel deployed across the Pacific Theater of operations in support of two multi-national exercises.
- The SCANG is currently executing \$68M in construction projects on McEntire JNGB with an additional \$14M in projects in the contracting process. Construction continues on taxiways and ramps around the Base to ensure it meets the criteria for future missions and aircraft such as the F35. Over the next 10 years plans include over \$170M in upgrades to McEntire JNGB facilities.

Military Department Highlights

- The SC State Guard (SCSG) provided ancillary security assistance for the Cooper River Bridge Run in Mt. Pleasant and Charleston.
- The SCSG held a Leaders Call with leaders from all levels of the organization to include the Adjutant General and Deputy Adjutant General. This meeting was conducted to assist with unity of purpose, organizational direction, and information dissemination.
- Additionally, the SCSG participated in Wreaths Across America events at the Fort Jackson, Beaufort and Florence National Cemeteries.

Questions?

TAB 9

The background image shows the exterior of a large, modern building with a curved facade. The building has a dark upper section with white text and a lighter lower section with columns. A wide set of stairs with metal railings leads to the entrance. To the right, there are green trees and bushes. The sky is clear and blue.

NATIONAL GUARD READINESS CENTER
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION
SOUTH CAROLINA

SOUTH CAROLINA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT DIVISION

Operational Update

January 2026

Discussion Points



- SCEMD Mission
- Covington Drive Fire
- Table Rock Complex Fire
- Disaster Cost Share Summary
- FEMA Transition

SCEMD Mission



The South Carolina Emergency Management Division leads the state emergency management program by supporting local authorities to minimize the loss of life and property from all-hazard events.

Covington Drive Fire Impacts

March 2025



- Carolina Forest area in Horry County
- 2,059 acres destroyed in a wildland/urban interface environment
- Emergency Protective Measures estimate: \$3.1M
- Residential damage limited
- Federal Assistance under the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG)
 - Available to government organizations for control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands
 - Does not cover residential damage
 - Cost share is 25%

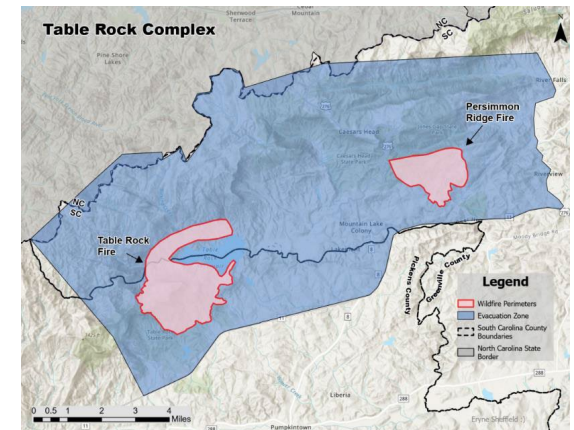


Table Rock Complex Fire

March 2024



- Two fires
 - Table Rock (Pickens)
 - Persimmon Ridge (Greenville)
- Over 15,000 acres destroyed with no residential damage
- Emergency protective measures estimate: \$25.9M
- Federal Assistance approved under the Fire Management Assistance Grant (FMAG) with a 25% cost share



Non-Federal Share Summary By Disaster



Disaster	Estimated Non-Federal Share	State Appropriation	+ (-)	State Share Payments to Date
2014 Ice Storm	\$15,817,398	\$16,434,628 ¹	\$617,230	\$15,817,398
2015 Flood	\$53,060,753	\$52,876,101 ²	-\$184,652	\$33,520,826
2016 Hurricane Matthew	\$61,950,538	\$67,300,000 ³	\$5,349,462	\$57,421,796
2016 Pinnacle Mountain Fire	\$1,112,144	\$1,250,000 ⁴	\$137,856	\$1,112,144
2017 Hurricane Irma	\$8,491,051	\$9,629,240 ⁵	\$1,138,189	\$7,045,373
2018 Hurricane Florence	\$28,165,975	\$21,580,000	-\$6,585,975	\$19,006,132

¹ Includes an original appropriation of \$7,439,969 and moving \$8,994,659 from 2015 Flood surplus state appropriation.

² Original appropriation was \$72,000,000; reduced by funds reallocated to 2014 Ice Storm (\$8,994,659), Hurricane Irma (\$9,629,240), and 2015 Flood Voluntary Agency Housing Repair Assistance (\$500,000).

³ Original appropriation of \$68M included \$700,000 earmarked for Nichols.

⁴ Funds reallocated from 2015 flood appropriation, not a separate appropriation of funds.

⁵ Original appropriation of \$22M included \$420,000 earmarked for Horry generators.

As of 1 December 2025

Non-Federal Share Summary By Disaster (con't)



Disaster	Estimated Non-Federal Share	State Appropriation	+ (-)	State Share Payments to Date
2019 Hurricane Dorian	\$11,360,544	\$12,651,884 ¹	\$432,723	\$8,368,290
2020 February Storms	\$858,617			\$824,603
2020 COVID-19	\$1,829,273	N/A ³	-\$1,829,273	\$1,829,273
2020 April 13 Tornadoes	\$1,851,517	\$5,382,759 ²	\$3,531,242	\$1,835,915
2022 Hurricane Ian	\$4,494,150	N/A ³	-\$4,494,150	\$3,057,355
2023 Hurricane Idalia	\$615,558	N/A ³	-\$615,558	\$615,558

¹ 2021 appropriation of \$12,651,884 for non-Federal share for declared disasters.

² 2021 appropriation of \$5,382,759 for FEMA match – Declared Tornado Disasters.

³ Proviso 117.53 provides flexibility for carry-forward and use of appropriations for non-Federal share from previous disasters to be used on other declared events.

As of 1 December 2025

Non-Federal Share Summary By Disaster (con't)



Disaster	Estimated Non-Federal Share	State Appropriation	+ (-)	State Share Payments to Date
2024 TS Debby (EM-3606)	\$5,906	\$198,713,200 ¹	-\$63,690,841	\$5,906
2024 TS Debby	\$7,391,677			\$1,744,854
2024 Hurricane Helene	\$247,952,919			\$71,161,021
2024 Edisto Flood	\$7,323,540			\$296,945
2025 Covington Drive Fire	\$781,243	\$0	-\$781,243	\$0
2025 Table Rock Complex Fire	\$6,475,992	\$0	-\$6,475,992	\$0
Total All Disasters	\$458,633,593	\$385,817,812	-\$72,815,781	\$224,171,001

¹ The estimated Non-Federal share for 2024 declared events includes Non-Federal share for non-profit electric cooperatives and Santee Cooper (see next slide for additional detail).

² SC General Assembly appropriated an additional \$198,713,200 in the FY2025-26 budget for use for Non-Federal share for Federally Declared Disasters. Communicated gubernatorial and legislative intent included payment of Non-Federal share for non-profit electrical cooperatives and Santee Cooper for 2024 declared events. Previous provisos allow funds to be used across disasters.

Disaster Non-Federal Share Summary



Total Estimated Non-Federal Share*	\$458,633,593
State Appropriations for Non-Federal Share	\$385,817,812
Total Estimated New Appropriation Needed**	\$72,815,781

* Estimate included Non-Federal share for non-profit electric cooperatives and Santee Cooper. Amounts will fluctuate as Public Assistance (PA) projects are formulated and Individual Assistance (IA) payments continue.

** Appropriations are \$72,815,781 less than projected Non-Federal share costs through the March 2025 Table Rock Complex Fire.

FEMA Transition



- FEMA Review Council
 - Expected to release recommendations to the White House this month.
 - Recommendations are expected to pass at least some of FEMA's responsibilities to States.
 - Recommendations will be acted on by FEMA, the President or Congress depending on authority.
 - No clear picture on final decisions but we can make assumptions in some areas.
- Two areas of particular importance to us include:
 - Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)
 - FEMA Disaster Response and Recovery Programs and Funding

Emergency Management Performance Grant (EMPG)



- EMPG is a long-standing Federal grant to sustain and improve emergency management programs ranging from personnel to communications equipment
- SC's allocation has ranged from \$5.4M to \$6M, and 50% of the allocation is passed through to each county emergency management office
- FEMA froze the FY 25 EMPG with an administrative hold until states submit a 30 Sept 2025 census estimate excluding individuals removed under immigration law. A response has been provided but no action taken
- The Grant's Period of Performance was also changed to 1 year instead of 3 years, and the start date adjusted from 01 Jul 25 to 01 Oct 25



EMPG (con't)

- 24 states sued the Federal government for the removal of the hold and period of performance change.
 - Courts found for the plaintiff states, but status of an appeal is unknown.
 - There is speculation DHS/FEMA will withhold funding until litigation is settled or (worst case) until the grant expires.
- With the continued loss of EMPG funding, the impact would be immediate and severe.
 - Counties may be forced to reduce staff, delay critical planning and training activities, and scale back emergency management initiatives. 84 county personnel are at least partially funded through EMPG.
 - At the state level, SCEMD would face significant operational constraints, including the potential loss of 17 (almost 25%) personnel, reducing our ability to coordinate disaster response and recovery efforts.
- 13 major disasters in SC in 11 years clearly indicates the need for a strong and robust emergency management system at the state and local levels – EMPG is a key element in maintaining the required level of operational capability.

FEMA Disaster Programs



- Individual Assistance – Grants to families and individuals
- Public Assistance – Grants to government organizations and some non-profit organizations for infrastructure repair, debris removal, and emergency protective measures
- Hazard Mitigation Grant Program – Grants designed to reduce impacts of future disasters



Individual Assistance

- Currently FEMA funds up to \$82,600 per family or individual.
- No good intelligence on the future of this program but States may be asked to absorb responsibilities.
- As an example, during Hurricane Helene FEMA provided over \$328M in Individual Assistance.



Public Assistance

- FEMA currently funds at least 75% of infrastructure repair, debris and emergency protective measure costs.
- To qualify, SC must meet a damage threshold which is currently \$9.9M.
- Strong possibility our state threshold for receiving Federal assistance will increase from \$9.9M to almost \$40M necessitating our \$37M request this for our state-run Public Assistance Program.
- 5 of the last 13 Federally declared disasters would not qualify under this new threshold.
- There has been discussion that cost share could be adjusted from 75%/25% to 50%/50%.

Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)



- Funding is calculated based on 15% of total Federal disaster costs.
- Funding normally approved along with a Federal Disaster Declaration – until recently when some disasters have not been approved for HMGP.
- No good intelligence on the future of this program but States may be asked to absorb funding responsibilities.
- Helene HMGP funding is \$152M with a 25% cost share.

