

**Columbia Chamber of Commerce
Military Outreach Group Meeting
24 Aug 2021
McEntire JNGB/SCANG Updates**

Priorities

- Readiness – execute our Federal and State mission
- Protect the Force
- Partner/community engagement

Mission Sustainment Lines of Effort

- Improve the Strategic Basing Posture and Military Value of McEntire JNGB
- Continue to Modernize Infrastructure and Enhance Installation Resiliency
- Advance our Partner Engagement and Outreach Activities

Strategic Efforts

- Continued push for F-35 basing at McEntire, basing decision deferred
- Continue F-16 Aircraft Modernization/Sustainment
- Major Runway Modernization/Repair Construction –
 - contract award late FY21
 - runway closure for 6-8 months early CY22,
 - primary course of action planning option is to conduct local flying and Aerospace Control Alert from Columbia Metropolitan Airport

Operations and Training

- Ongoing - Continued support of State COVID response – critical staffing needs and support across the state; vaccine distribution and administering
- 28 May-26 June - Joint Exercise with Australia, Pacific Sentry/Talisman Saber '21 Exercise (Joint Air Component Coordination Element) –
- 6-25 June in Missouri – MDG Exercise Operation Healthy Delta –
 - Theme – helping people, changing lives
 - Total Patients seen + 2k
 - Procedures completed + 11k
 - Prescriptions filled +1500
 - Glasses provided - +700
 - Community Value +1M
- Also in June - Hosting ANG Civil Engineering unit from The US Virgin Islands (St Croix) for a Deployment for Training
 - Accomplished Base improvement projects as well as training and readiness;
- At the end of July we concluded out '21 SWA Deployment – PSAB
 - ~ 300+ recently returned and preparing to return to work
- 31 Aug – 1 Sept., McEntire JNGB is hosting USINDOPACOM-sponsored Joint Capabilities Technology Demonstration
 - selected from over 200 military installations world-wide, this demonstration will focus on developing a conops for Airfield Damage Repair across the Joint Force; in an effort to develop new concept of operations for the Joint Force –

Community

- COVID prevention have reduced the overall amount of tours and meetings hosted on the installation.
- COVID impacts on Community Outreach
 - Annual Top Gun Drill canceled for March (approx. 1,000 participants and fans)
 - McEntire STEM Day canceled for April (hundreds of local school kids)
 - McEntire Family Day canceled for April
 - National Guard Association of SC annual conference cancelled this year
- We are still doing targeted engagement with appropriate COVID prevention protocols.
 - Congresswoman Mace visited McEntire 18 Aug
 - Planning to host new State Reps and new County Council members when appropriate
- STARBASE Swamp Fox Summer Camp was held – 27-30 July

Misc

- Hosted NGB Head of the Contracting Activity and Senior Contracting Official – 1 Jul
- Mission Sustainment/Encroachment Management
 - Richland County Land Development Code rewrite;
 - Base feedback has been submitted, prepared to review any final drafts
 - Kudos to the County Planning team for their assistance
- ANG Federal Tuition Assistance Beta Program
 - Drill Status Guardsmen (enlisted & officer) can now take advantage of Federal TA to pursue off-duty educational opportunities
 - 100% tuition NTE \$250/sem credit hr, \$166/qtr credit hr, \$4,500 max/yr
 - Up to 124 sem hours for undergraduate degree; 42 sem hr graduate degree
 - National/Regional Accredited institution, recognized by DoE, signed DOD Partnership memo

Closing

- Sept 11, 169th Fighter Wing Change of Command, Col Akshai Gandhi will relinquish command to Col Quad Quadri
 - Our partners on the Military Outreach Group are invited, if you are interested please reach out to me and I can coordinate the details