

R. Wes Hayes, Jr.
Chairman

L. Jeffrey Perez, Ph.D.
President and Executive Director



SCNG CAP Monthly Meeting - SC Commission on Higher Education

2:30 p.m. July 28, 2026

Minutes

SC National Guard

SGM (Retired) Mr. Paul Mead (Army)
MSgt. Thomas Edmunds (Air) -Virtually

CHE Staff

Dr. Karen Woodfaulk
Ms. Alfie B. Mincy
Ms. Kinsey Phillips

1. Introductions and Approval of Minutes

On July 28, 2026, the SCNG CAP meeting opened at 2:30 pm with introductions by everyone in attendance. Dr. Karen Woodfaulk requested a motion to approve the minutes from June 16, 2026. The motion was made by SGM (Retired) Mr. Paul Mead and seconded by MSgt. Thomas Edmunds to accept the minutes as written. The minutes were accepted as written.

2. SCNG CAP 2026-2027 Updates July 2026

Air Guard (ANG) Report

MSgt. Edmunds reported for the Air National Guard 2026-27 academic year as of **July**: 86 applications were received, and 83 were approved. For the first enrollment (01 June -01 August), 86 applications were received, 83 were approved, 0 are pending approval, 1 is conditional on a member re-enlisting to use funds, and 3 were denied due to being duplicate applications. The total projection for all soldiers enrolled for the 2026-2027 academic year is \$868,000; this amount may decrease after verifying eligibility for applicants near the lifetime \$25,000 maximum.

Army National Guard (ARNG) Report

Mr. Mead also reported. 998 applications were received for the SC Army National Guard as of July 2026; of those applications received, 888 applicants were approved, which totaled \$10,201,265.00. These projections are based on whether all the service members use CAP funding. Additional updates: 0 pending applications. Approvals: There are 207 ROTC, 178 soldiers pursuing first associate's degrees, 0 pursuing second associate's degrees, 685 pursuing bachelor's degrees, and 23 pursuing academic certificates. Denials: There were also 7



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denials due to active flagging actions. There were (0) discharged and (3) graduated, who were all sent emails. There were (0) AIT Failures and (1) who will not complete the Projected Advanced Individual Training (AIT) in the current academic year. (5) Expiration Terms of Service (ETS) were before the Fall 26 semester end date and (0) before the Spring 27 end date. The total number of denials for the Army National Guard is 16. Projected Advanced Individual Training (AIT): The projected AITs to complete for Fall 2026 are (7); the number of projected AITs servicemembers for Spring 2027 is (33), (44) AIT servicemembers are projected for Summer 2027, and there are (10) unknown new joins (no projected dates in the system to complete AIT). The total AIT projections are \$336,000. Total approved with AIT projections is \$10,537,265.

Update: SCNG CAP 2025-2026: Ms. Mincy reported for FY26 SCNG CAP the following:

24-25 Lottery Carryforward	\$11,752,064.33
FY26 Appropriation	\$6,200,000.00
Administrative Cost	(\$310,000.00) 5%
25-2026 Total Lottery Carryforward and Allocation	\$17,642,064.33

As of JULY 2026, the total number of invoices processed for the Air and Army National Guard is \$3,708,968.50 (Spring 2026), \$528,251.00 (Summer 2026) for the Total Invoices processed – 7,684,786.50. Ms. Mincy also mentioned that the total funds remaining are \$9,957,277.83

Semester as of May 2026	Number of students awarded – Unduplicated Headcount 2025-2026 AY	
Fall 2025	Air - 59	Army -855
Spring 2026	Air – 65	Army -890
Summer 2026	Air –2	Army -23
*Invoices are still being processed, and not all schools have uploaded disbursements for the semester *Deadline to submit final invoices is August 20 th .		
Total National Guard for the 25-26 AY Unduplicated Headcount	<u>Air –75 + Army 1081</u> 1156 Total Unduplicated Headcount	

(Note: The amounts and numbers reported are subject to change due to discrepancies and are based on the invoices received and the scholarship files uploaded to the CHE Information Management System -CHEMIS. at the time of this report.)

Ms. Mincy shared the following updates:

- All Summer invoices that have been received have been processed.
- Some institutions have a Summer III term, for which invoices have not been received, but institutions have until August 20 to submit adjustments. Summer reconciliation is pending these adjustments, and pending disbursement file submission.

3. Other Business, Old Business, Comments or Concerns:

a. 2026-2027 CAP Application June 1 – August 1, 2026

Ms. Mincy shared a reminder that the CAP application closes on August 1st at 11:59 pm.

b. Other discussion

The Committee discussed the current budget proviso. Dr. Woodfaulk explained that the General Assembly that a special committee is reviewing earmarked funds, but full budget approval was still pending for the 2026-27 budget. Dr. Woodfaulk and Mr. Mead discussed connecting CHE with The Adjutant General in order to coordinate and discuss pre-filing a bill to update the current language in SCNG CAP Statutes and increase funding to ensure program sustainability without relying on carry-forward funds.

Ms. Mincy provided an update from a recent meeting with CHE Fiscal Affairs wherein the carry-forward funds and program expenditures were discussed. While there is no immediate shortfall, Ms. Mincy emphasized the importance of careful monitoring in the next 3 fiscal years, with FY2025-26 being used to establish a baseline. This monitoring is going to be especially important if the lifetime award amount is increased to \$32,000.

4. Data Upgrade Migration CHEMIS 2.0 & Connect 2.0 (SCNG CAP Web Portal):

Ms. Mincy reminded the Committee that CHE, in partnership with the South Carolina Department of Administration's Division of Technology Operations (DTO), will soon upgrade its database servers. As a result, the CHEMIS data submission portal will have the following limitations during the maintenance window of August 7-14, and the SCNG CAP web portal (Connect.com) will be unavailable. No new data uploads, updates, or changes can be submitted or processed. Also, Change of Request (Home Institution) will not be available. The new system will go live on August 15, with restored functionality expected for all users by August 17th.

Ms. Mincy shared a user guide that was provided by CHE's Information Technology department. She requested that the National Guard review the handbook and ensure the instructions make sense.

Due to the timeframe that the database will be unavailable, Ms. Mincy will export final student lists on Tuesday, August 4, so that institutions will have a working lists during the upgrade to prevent any delays in verifying enrollment and awarding for the fall semester.

5. Fall Best Practices Workshop – SCNG CAP Playbook

Ms. Mincy stated that the handout from the previous workshop would be provided later in the day, and requested that Mr. Mead and MSgt. Edmunds review and provide any suggested updates. Both Ms. Mincy and Dr. Woodfaulk requested that the National Guard provide some additional scenarios to present during the workshop to help highlight best practices.

6. Other Comments or Concerns:

IT Concerns and Error Messages:

Dr. Woodfaulk followed up with Mr. Mead and MSgt. Edmunds on the ongoing error messages. Mr. Mead mentioned that the errors continue when he approves applications and that when he receives the errors, he has to manually complete student applications. When the errors occur, students do not receive notifications on their applications. Ms. Mincy shared that she will contact the CHE IT Department to communicate these continuing error messages and functionality concerns.

Fall 2026 Advisory Board Meeting and Best Practices Workshop:

The group discussed the Fall semester calendar meetings for the Advisory Board Meeting and the SCNG CAP: Playbook and Best Practices Workshop. The Workshop date was chosen as Tuesday, October 20, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.

2026-2027 Tentative SCNG CAP Monthly Meeting Dates 2 nd Tuesday in the month at 10:30 am unless otherwise noted.	
July 2026	July 14, 2026 Monthly Meeting rescheduled post-meeting to July 28, 2026 @2:30pm*
August 2026	August 11, 2026 – Monthly Meeting Marketing/Communications Save the Date (Best Practices Workshop)- October 2026 *Preparing for SCNG CAP Annual Report
September 2026	September 8, 2026 - Fall Advisory Board Meeting Flyer SCNG CAP- Best Practices Workshop/Launch Registration - SCNG CAP Playbook *Preparing for SCNG CAP Annual Report
*October 2026	October 13, 2026 – Monthly Meeting *Preparing for SCNG CAP Annual Report <u>October 20, 2026</u> – Best Practices Workshop- SCNG CAP Playbook Prefile Bill October – November – FY 28 (Increase in appropriations)
November 2026	November 5, 2026, CSS 2025 SCNG CAP Annual Report November 10, 2026, Monthly Meeting

	Prefile Bill October – November
December 2026	December 3, 2026– CHE Board of Commissioners Mtg December 8, 2026 – Tentative

7. Next CAP monthly meeting:

The group reviewed calendars and confirmed that the next SCNG CAP Meeting will be on August 11, 2026, at 10:30 am.

The minutes and PowerPoint were respectfully submitted by Ms. Kinsey Phillips & Ms. Alfie B. Mincy.