

United States Army Reserve - History

Army Reserve Contingencies and Recent Operations

BACKGROUND

The U.S. Army Reserve is the Army's primary source of Echelons Above Corps (EAC) combat support (CS) and Echelons Above Division (EAD) combat service support (CSS) forces. In fact, more than 40% of the CS and CSS forces are in the Army Reserve, including medical, engineer, transportation, civil affairs, military police, and psychological operations units. These types of units are essential to any military operation, from start to finish.

THE WAR ON TERRORISM

Following the terrorist attack on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld requested and President Bush approved (on Sept. 14, 2001) a Partial Mobilization of Reserve Components.

Army Reserve units and individuals are supporting both Operation NOBLE EAGLE and Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Operation NOBLE EAGLE refers to U.S. military operations in homeland defense and civil support to federal, state and local agencies in the U.S. Operation ENDURING FREEDOM is the name associated with the war on terrorism outside the United States.

CENTRAL AMERICA (January - May 2000)

Nuevos Horizontes (New Horizons '00) Over 1,800 United States Army Reserve soldiers from 52 units have provided humanitarian and civic assistance for New Horizons 2000. United States Army Reserve Engineer and Medical unit accomplishments included the construction of 4 schools, 5 wells, and 1 clinic throughout El Salvador. Medical assistance included the treatment of over 108,000 Central American civilians. These exercises provided combined readiness training opportunities for Army Reserve units working along side host nation personnel and demonstrated continued U.S. support for the people of the Caribbean and Central America.

KOSOVO (April 1999-present)

OPERATION JOINT GUARDIAN. In April 1999, the President authorized the call-up of Reserve Component forces as part of America's support to NATO forces in Kosovo. The Army Reserve has mobilized civil affairs, medical, military police, psychological operations, and other units. By September, a total of 443 personnel were supporting this operation from locations in Kosovo, Germany and Italy.

BOSNIA (1995-present)

OPERATION JOINT FORGE. In December 1995, the President authorized the call-up of Reserve Component forces as part of America's support to NATO forces in the Bosnia-Herzegovina area. Shortly thereafter, the Army Reserve mobilized civil affairs, postal, medical, engineer, transportation, psychological operations, and other units. Throughout Operation Joint Endeavor, Operation Joint Guard and now Operation Joint Forge, the U.S. Army Reserve has provided well over 70% of the total Reserve Component support. In fact, the average U.S. Army Reserve force content remains at 63% enlisted and 37 % officers. During 1997, a typical month saw nearly 2,100 Army Reservists on active duty in support of the Bosnian effort. By August, 1998, more than 11,150 Army Reserve soldiers had been mobilized under PSRC. This includes 332 troop program units, consisting of some 775 detachments/elements. Most of these TPU soldiers are either currently serving or have served in Germany, Hungary, and Bosnia, while the remaining soldiers fill critical support roles in CONUS. Since the onset of the operation, about 10,770 USAR soldiers have completed their PSRC and returned home. As the total U.S. force decreases in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the USAR presence will be reduced as well; however, the Army Reserve will be there as long as the Army is there. Currently, some 380 USAR soldiers remain on active duty in support of OJF.

HAITI (1995-1996)

OPERATION UPHOLD DEMOCRACY. When the U.S. mobilized to help restore democracy in Haiti, the Army Reserve's 458th Transportation Detachment was one of the first units alerted. The 458th went to Fort Bragg where they quickly began loading the aircraft taking soldiers and equipment to Haiti. Army Reservists were among the first forces onto the island and the last to leave. They helped rebuild the infrastructure and the government by providing civil affairs, engineer, postal, and aviation resources. Overall, more than 1,000 Army Reservists and 17 units served in Haiti.

THE SINAI (1995)

SINAI PEACEKEEPING FORCE. Approximately 49 Army Reservists were activated in support of the U.S. contribution to the Multinational Force Observer (MFO) Sinai Peacekeeping Operations in Egypt from January through July. A mixed battalion of active Army, Army Reserve and Army National Guard soldiers deployed to the Sinai to observe Egypt and Israel maintaining the protocols of their Peace Treaty signed in August 1981. The battalion included about 41 Army Reservists (engineers, MPs, radar specialists and others, primarily from the Individual Ready Reserve), and 8 others were activated in support roles.

Email Webmaster: webmaster@ocar.army.pentagon.mil

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