



## **CRS Report for Congress**

# **National Guard Personnel and Deployments: Fact Sheet**

Michael Waterhouse and JoAnne O'Bryant  
Information Research Specialists  
Knowledge Services Group

### **Summary**

The National Guard is playing an increasingly vital and growing role in the defense and security of the United States under the federal component of its mission. While that military reserve component's responsibilities and duties have increased, a March 2007 major report by the congressionally chartered independent Commission on the National Guard and Reserves has found that many Army and Air National Guard units stationed in the United States are rated "not ready." That rating is based primarily on current military equipment shortages and concerns for long-term operational reserve capacity. These domestic equipment shortfall and reserve capacity issues are attributed, in part, to the large deployment of National Guard personnel (currently over 31,000) and equipment deployed in Afghanistan and Iraq in the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Meanwhile, in May 2006, more than 6,000 National Guard personnel were authorized to be sent to the southern border region of the United States to temporarily assist in interdicting illegal aliens. As of March 8, 2007, at least 6,511 National Guard forces were deployed for this border security operation (Operation Jump Start). This report presents statistical information on the National Guard's federal role in defense and security, including its deployments in support of GWOT, OIF, and Operation Jump Start.

### **Introduction**

The National Guard has undertaken an increasingly significant level of responsibility in its federal role in the defense and security of the United States. Traditionally, the Guard has been both a domestic state-level security force and a major federal component of U.S. combat power for overseas operations. It has become an integral force in the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Most recently the National Guard has been deployed under Operation Jump Start (OJS) on the southern border region of the United States to assist in national security by interdicting illegal aliens crossing the border into the country.

A report was recently issued by the congressionally chartered Commission on the National Guard and Reserves which examined and proposed recommendations on the readiness of reserve component units, including the National Guard. The report<sup>1</sup> disclosed that many Army National Guard units not deployed abroad are “poorly equipped” and as a result are “not ready,” based largely on the ongoing overseas commitments and missions of the National Guard, participating in the war in Iraq and the Global War on Terrorism.

Selected statistics on the force levels of the National Guard within the mix of U.S. military forces deployed in the major warfighting and national security ongoing operational missions are presented below. Information was developed and provided from official sources within the U.S. Department of Defense and the National Guard Bureau.

## Selected U.S. National Guard Statistics

**Table 1. National Guard Strength**  
(as of 2/28/07)

Army National Guard	348,598
Air National Guard	105,665
<b>Total Strength</b>	<b>454,263</b>

**Source:** National Guard Bureau, March 8, 2007.

**Table 2. Current Major National Guard Deployments**  
(as of 3/1/07)

<b>In Iraq — Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)</b>	<b>16,650</b>
Army National Guard	15,191
Air National Guard	1,459
<b>In Afghanistan — Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)</b>	<b>2,451</b>
Army National Guard	1,855
Air National Guard	596
<b>In the United States — Operation Jump Start (OJS) as of 3/8/07</b>	<b>6,511</b>
Army National Guard	5,560
Air National Guard	951

**Source:** Department of Defense, Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs; March 6, 2007; and National Guard Bureau, Public Affairs, March 8, 2007.

<sup>1</sup> Commission on the National Guard and Reserves, *Strengthening America's Defenses in the New Security Environment*, Mar. 1, 2007, [<http://www.cngr.gov/Worddocs/March%201%20Report/CNCR%20Second%20Report%20to%20Congress%20.pdf>].

**Total National Guard Personnel Ever Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan  
in Support of OIF and OEF,  
September 2001 - January 31, 2007**

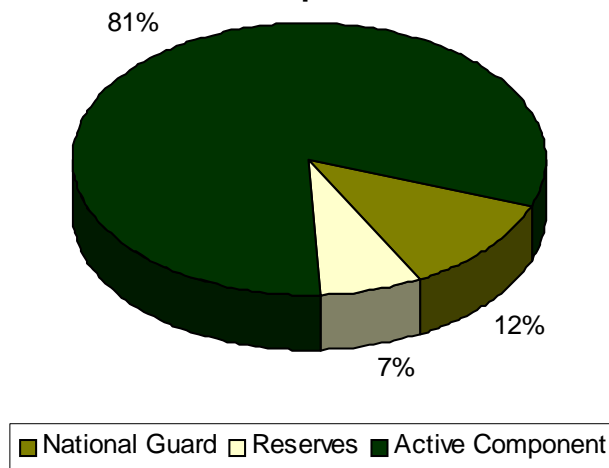
**233,309**

**Source:** Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, March 2007.

## National Guard and Reserves in Iraq

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Iraq who are currently deployed as of March 1, 2007, are shown in **Figure 1** below.

**Figure 1. Composition of U.S. Forces in Iraq by Component**



**Source:** Percentage calculations by CRS. Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, March 2007.

**Table 3. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Iraq**

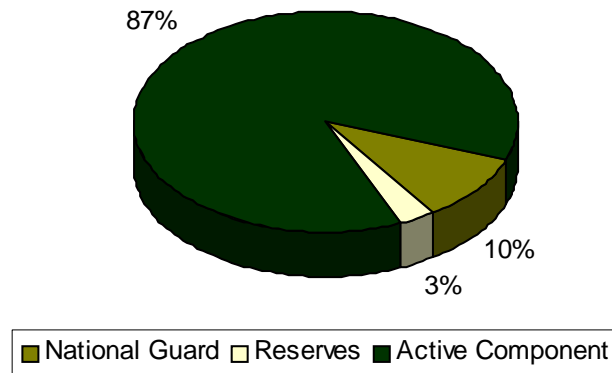
<b>Reserve Component</b>	<b>26,065</b>
<b>National Guard</b>	<b>16,650</b>
Army National Guard	15,191
Air National Guard	1,459
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>9,415</b>
Army Reserve	6,046
Air Force Reserve	523
Navy Reserve	749
Marine Reserve	2,097
<b>Active Component</b>	<b>111,911</b>
Army	76,507
Air Force	9,463
Navy	3,765
Marines	22,176

**Source:** Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, March 2007.

## National Guard and Reserves in Afghanistan

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Afghanistan who are currently deployed as of March 1, 2007, are shown in **Figure 2** below.

**Figure 2. Composition of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan by Component**



**Source:** Percentage calculations by CRS. Data from Department of Defense, Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, March 2007.

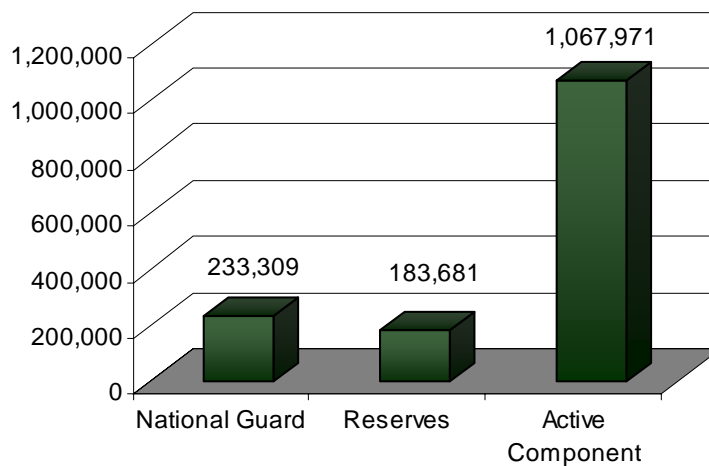
**Table 4. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Afghanistan**

<b>Reserve Component</b>	<b>3,264</b>
<b>National Guard</b>	<b>2,451</b>
Army National Guard	1,855
Air National Guard	596
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>813</b>
Army Reserve	518
Air Force Reserve	241
Navy Reserve	50
Marine Reserve	4
<b>Active Component</b>	<b>21,581</b>
Army	17,284
Air Force	3,088
Navy	784
Marines	425

**Source:** Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, March 2007.

### **Total U.S. Forces Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, September 2001 - January 2007**

Between September 2001 and January 31, 2007, a total of 233,309 National Guard, 183,681 Reserves, and 1,067,971 Active Component personnel have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan (shown in **Figure 3** below).

**Figure 3. Deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan**

**Source:** Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, March 2007.