

# CRS Report for Congress

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## National Guard Personnel and Deployments: Fact Sheet

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### Summary

The National Guard is an increasingly vital component in the defense and security of the United States. Its federal role has grown with its major roles in U.S. and coalition country defense operations worldwide over the past several years. The Guard has been deployed in significant numbers in the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) as a full-scale partner in the armed services Total Force policy. Meanwhile, in May 2006, over 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 November 22, 2006, at least 5,661 National Guard forces were deployed for this border security operation (Operation Jump Start). This report briefly presents statistical information on the National Guard's 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 role in the defense and security of the United States. Traditionally, the Guard has been both a domestic security force and a major 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 interdicting illegal aliens crossing the border into the country.

Selected statistics on the force levels of the National Guard within the mix of U.S. military forces deployed in major 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 9/30/06)

Army National Guard	346,288
Air National Guard	105,660
<b>Total Strength</b>	<b>451,948</b>

**Source:** National Guard Bureau, October 11, 2006.

**Table 2. Current Major National Guard Deployments**  
(as of 11/1/06)

<b>In Iraq — Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)</b>	<b>14,610</b>
Army National Guard	14,213
Air National Guard	397
<b>In Afghanistan — Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)</b>	<b>2,317</b>
Army National Guard	2,142
Air National Guard	175
<b>In the United States — Operation Jump Start (OJS) as of 11/22/06</b>	<b>5,661</b>
Army National Guard	4,903
Air National Guard	758

**Source:** Department of Defense, Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs; November 3, 2006; and National Guard Bureau, Public Affairs, November 22, 2006.

**Total National Guard Personnel Ever Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan  
in Support of OIF and OEF,  
September 2001 - September 30, 2006**

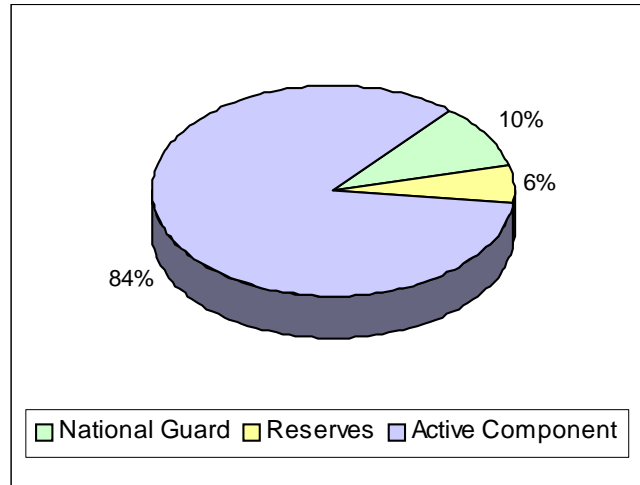
**222,764**

**Source:** Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, November 2006.

## National Guard and Reserves in Iraq

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Iraq who are currently deployed as of November 1, 2006, 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, November 2006.

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

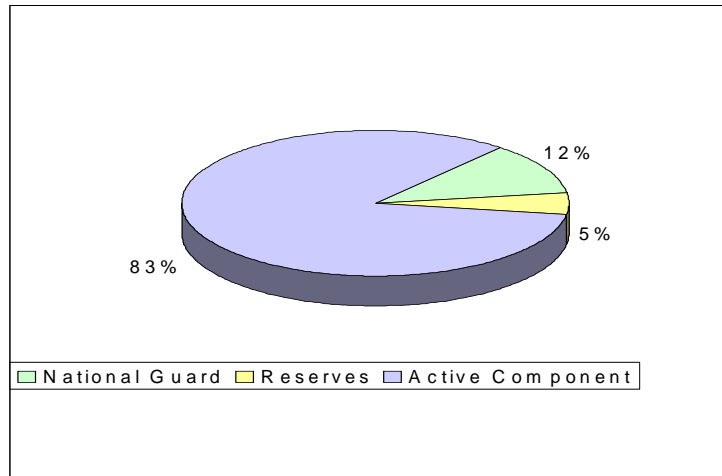
<b>Reserve Component</b>	<b>23,530</b>
<b>National Guard</b>	<b>14,610</b>
Army National Guard	14,213
Air National Guard	397
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>8,920</b>
Army Reserve	6,296
Air Force Reserve	949
Navy Reserve	629
Marine Reserve	1,046
<b>Active Component</b>	<b>124,266</b>
Army	93,556
Air Force	8,012
Navy	3,690
Marines	19,008

**Source:** Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, November 2006.

## National Guard and Reserves in Afghanistan

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Afghanistan who are currently deployed as of November 1, 2006, 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, November 2006.

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

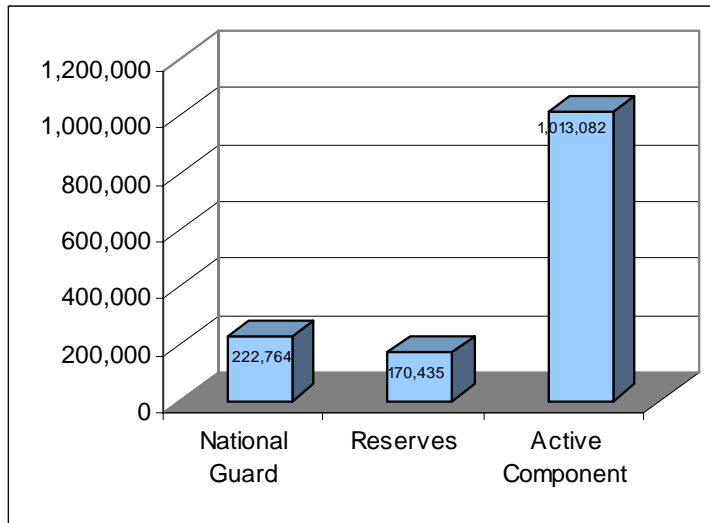
<b>Reserve Component</b>	<b>3,235</b>
<b>National Guard</b>	<b>2,317</b>
Army National Guard	2,142
Air National Guard	175
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>918</b>
Army Reserve	603
Air Force Reserve	300
Navy Reserve	14
Marine Reserve	1
<b>Active Component</b>	<b>16,556</b>
Army	12,357
Air Force	3,133
Navy	855
Marines	211

**Source:** Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, November 2006.

## Total U.S. Forces Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, September 2001 - September 30, 2006

Between September 2001 and September 30, 2006, a total of 222,764 National Guard, 170,435 Reserves, and 1,013,082 Active Component personnel have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan (shown in **Figure 3** below).

**Figure 3. Deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan**  
September 2001 through September 2006



**Source:** Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, November 2006.