

# 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. In the United States, meanwhile, the President has proposed sending up to 6,000 National Guard personnel to the southern border region to temporarily assist in interdicting illegal immigration. This report briefly presents statistical information on the National Guard's role in defense and security, including its deployments in support of OIF and GWOT.

### 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. Most recently, it has become an integral force in the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF).

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 9/30/05)

Army National Guard	333,177
Air National Guard	106,430
<b>Total Strength</b>	<b>439,607</b>

**Source:** National Guard Bureau, September 30, 2005.

**Table 2. Current Major National Guard Deployments**  
(as of 6/1/06)

<b>In Iraq — Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)</b>	<b>17,101</b>
Army National Guard	16,832
Air National Guard	269
<b>In Afghanistan — Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)</b>	<b>3,846</b>
Army National Guard	3,588
Air National Guard	258

**Source:** Department of Defense, Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs and Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, June 5, 2006.

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

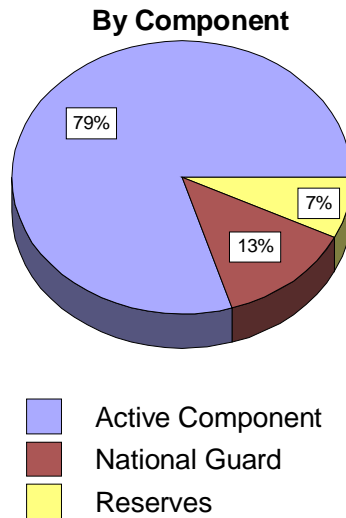
**211,412**

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

## National Guard and Reserves in Iraq

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Iraq who are currently deployed as of June 1, 2006, are shown in **Figure 1** below.

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



**Source:** Percentage calculations by CRS. Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, June 2006.

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

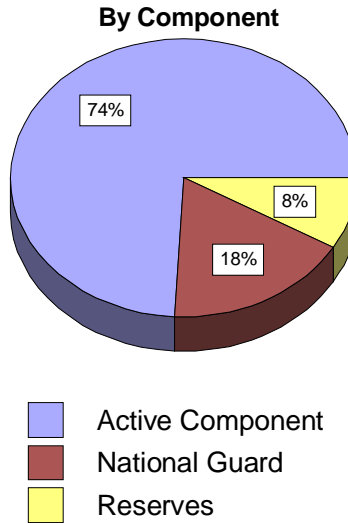
<b>Reserve Component</b>	<b>26,080</b>
<b>National Guard</b>	<b>17,101</b>
Army National Guard	16,832
Air National Guard	269
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>8,979</b>
Army Reserve	5,802
Air Force Reserve	1,107
Navy Reserve	800
Marine Reserve	1,270
<b>Active Component</b>	<b>102,709</b>
Army	71,963
Air Force	8,067
Navy	3,407
Marines	19,272

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

## National Guard and Reserves in Afghanistan

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Afghanistan who are currently deployed as of June 1, 2006, are shown in **Figure 2** below.

**Figure 2. Composition of US. Forces in Afghanistan**



**Source:** Percentage calculations by CRS. Data from Department of Defense, Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, June 2006.

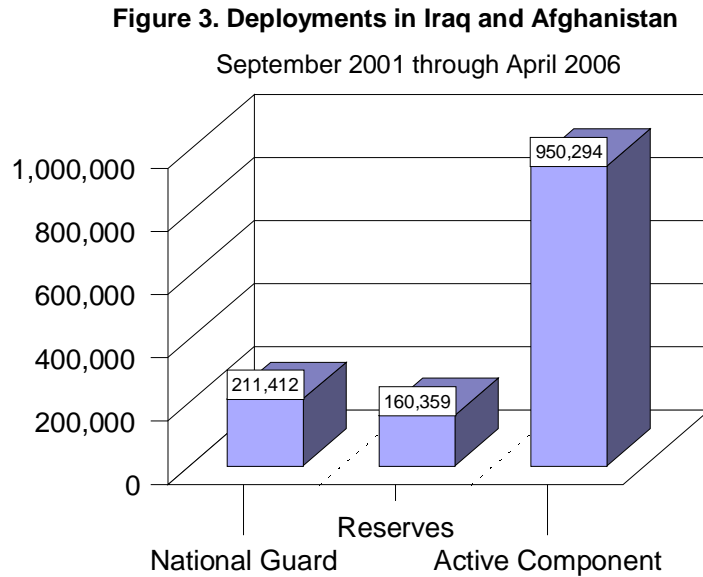
**Table 4. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Afghanistan**

<b>Reserve Component</b>	<b>5,601</b>
<b>National Guard</b>	<b>3,846</b>
Army National Guard	3,588
Air National Guard	258
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>1,755</b>
Army Reserve	1,400
Air Force Reserve	297
Navy Reserve	45
Marine Reserve	13
<b>Active Component</b>	<b>16,132</b>
Army	12,126
Air Force	3,024
Navy	820
Marines	162

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

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

Between September 2001 and April 30, 2006, a total of 211,412 National Guard, 160,359 Reserves, and 950,294 Active Component personnel have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan (shown in **Figure 3** below).



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