



CRS Report for Congress

National Guard Personnel and Deployments: Fact Sheet

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Summary

The National Guard plays a major role in the defense and security of the United States under the federal component of its mission. Although the military reserve component's responsibilities and duties have increased since 2001, a March 2007 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. According to the report, these domestic equipment shortfall and reserve capacity issues are attributed, in part, to the large deployment of National Guard personnel (currently more than 28,000) and equipment deployed in what the Bush Administration terms the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). 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 January 8, 2008, 2,736 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 plays a major 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. Since 2001, it has become an integral force in what the Bush Administration terms 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.

A report was issued in March 2007 by the congressionally chartered Commission on the National Guard and Reserves that examined and proposed recommendations on the readiness of reserve component units, including the National Guard.¹ The report 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 12/31/07)

Army National Guard	354,675
Air National Guard	105,859
Total Strength	460,534

Source: National Guard Bureau, January 11, 2008.

Table 2. Current Major National Guard Deployments
(as of 1/02/08)

In Iraq — Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)	11,545
Army National Guard	10,583
Air National Guard	962
In Afghanistan — Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)	3,971
Army National Guard	3,284
Air National Guard	687
In the United States — Operation Jump Start (OJS) as of 1/04/08	2,736
Army National Guard	2,289
Air National Guard	447

Source: Department of Defense, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs; January 2, 2008; and National Guard Bureau, Public Affairs, January 11, 2008.

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

**Total National Guard Personnel Ever Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan
in Support of OIF and OEF,
September 2001 - November 30, 2007**

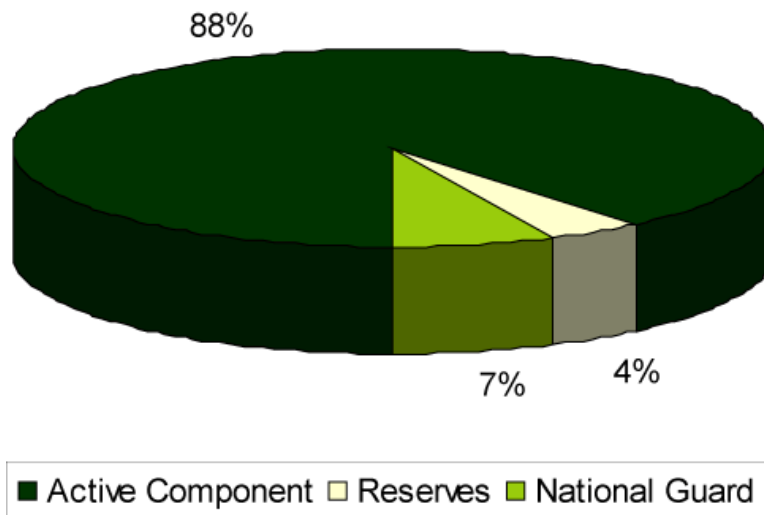
254,894

Source: Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, January 2008.

National Guard and Reserves in Iraq

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Iraq who were deployed as of January 2, 2008, are shown in **Figure 1** below.

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



Source: Percentage calculations by CRS. Percentages do not add to 100% due to rounding. Data from Department of Defense, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, January 2, 2008.

Table 3. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Iraq

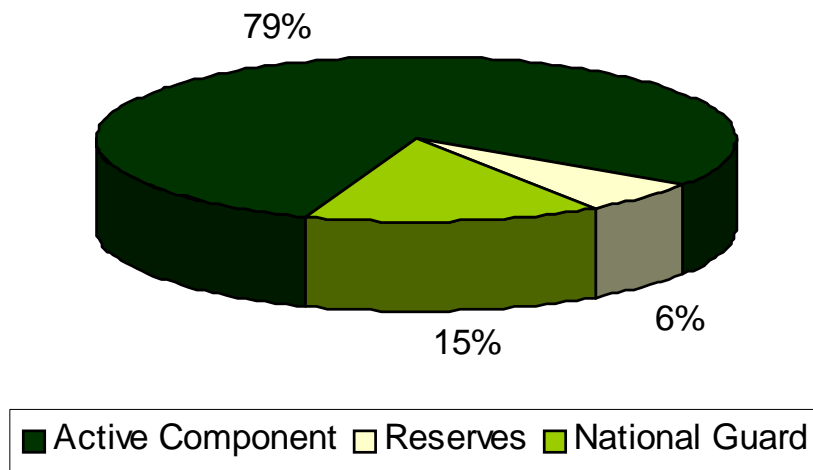
Reserve Component	18,137
National Guard	11,545
Army National Guard	10,583
Air National Guard	962
Reserves	6,592
Army Reserve	4,222
Air Force Reserve	676
Navy Reserve	653
Marine Reserve	1,041
Active Component	137,709
Army	100,307
Air Force	11,388
Navy	3,902
Marines	22,112

Source: Data from Department of Defense, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, January 2, 2008.

National Guard and Reserves in Afghanistan

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Afghanistan who are currently deployed as of January 2, 2008 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 the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, January 2, 2008.

Table 4. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Afghanistan

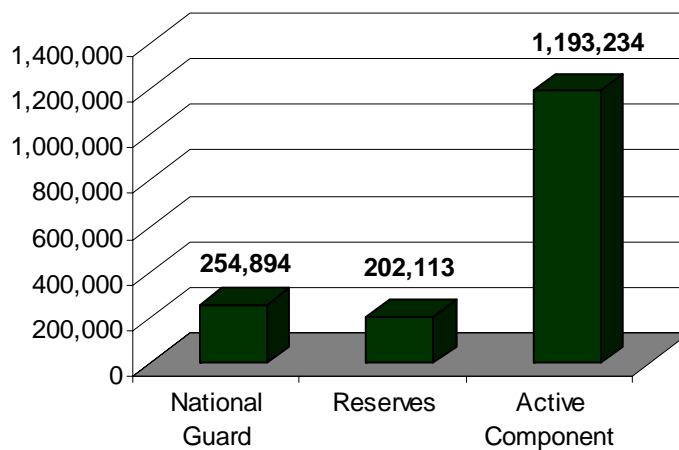
Reserve Component	5,667
National Guard	3,971
Army National Guard	3,284
Air National Guard	687
Reserves	1,696
Army Reserve	1,369
Air Force Reserve	205
Navy Reserve	120
Marine Reserve	2
Active Component	20,945
Army	15,728
Air Force	3,828
Navy	934
Marines	455

Source: Data from Department of Defense, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, January 2, 2008.

Total U.S. Forces Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, September 2001 - November 30, 2007

Between September 2001 and November 30, 2007, a total of 254,894 National Guard, 202,113 Reserves, and 1,193,234 Active Component personnel have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan (shown in **Figure 3** below).

**Figure 3. Deployment in Iraq and Afghanistan,
2001-2007**



Source: Department of Defense, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense, Legislative Affairs, January 2008.