



CRS Report for Congress

National Guard Personnel and Deployments: Fact Sheet

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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. 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 November 6, 2007, 2,889 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 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 10/31/07)

Army National Guard	353,178
Air National Guard	106,154
Total Strength	459,332

Source: National Guard Bureau, November 8, 2007.

Table 2. Current Major National Guard Deployments
(as of 11/1/07)

In Iraq — Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)	12,300
Army National Guard	10,876
Air National Guard	1,424
In Afghanistan — Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)	1,805
Army National Guard	1,291
Air National Guard	514
In the United States — Operation Jump Start (OJS) as of 11/6/07	2,889
Army National Guard	2,415
Air National Guard	474

Source: Department of Defense, Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs; November 1, 2007; and National Guard Bureau, Public Affairs, November 6, 2007.

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/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 - September 30, 2007**

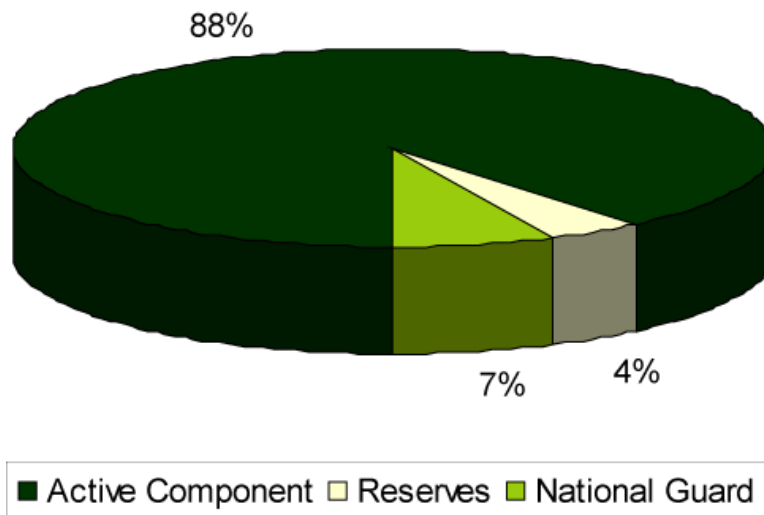
252,446

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

National Guard and Reserves in Iraq

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Iraq who were deployed as of November 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 of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, November 2007.

Table 3. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Iraq

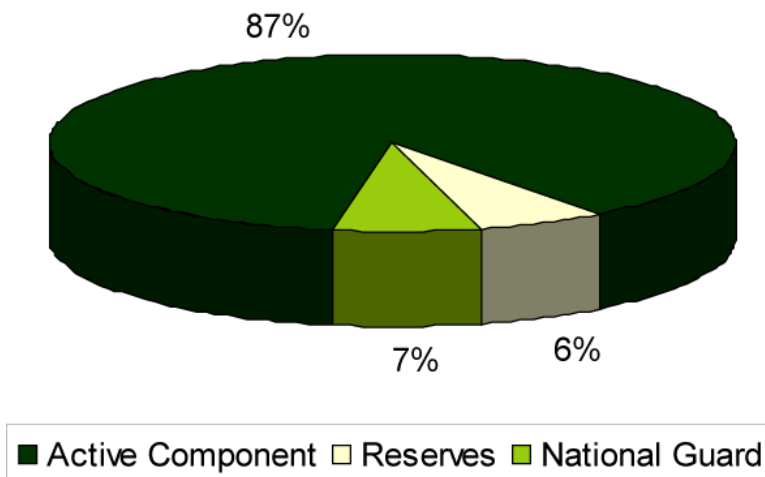
Reserve Component	19,679
National Guard	12,300
Army National Guard	10,876
Air National Guard	1,424
Reserves	7,379
Army Reserve	5,077
Air Force Reserve	662
Navy Reserve	651
Marine Reserve	989
Active Component	144,745
Army	104,833
Air Force	11,355
Navy	4,316
Marines	24,241

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

National Guard and Reserves in Afghanistan

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

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



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

Table 4. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Afghanistan

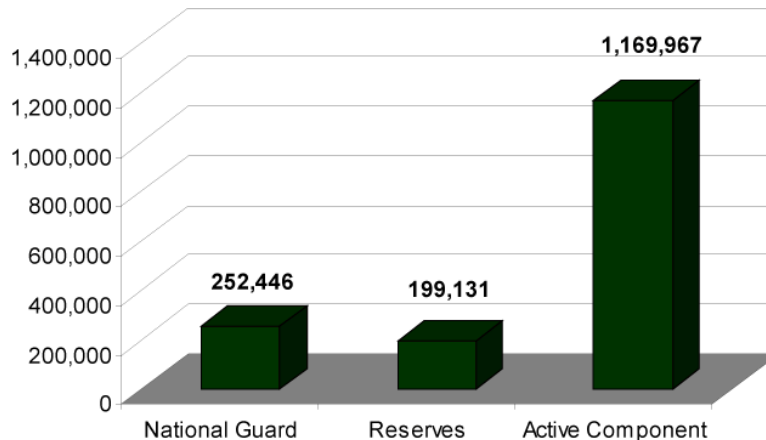
Reserve Component	3,272
National Guard	1,805
Army National Guard	1,291
Air National Guard	514
Reserves	1,467
Army Reserve	1,151
Air Force Reserve	204
Navy Reserve	107
Marine Reserve	5
Active Component	21,202
Army	15,808
Air Force	4,026
Navy	944
Marines	424

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

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

Between September 2001 and September 30, 2007, a total of 252,446 National Guard, 199,131 Reserves, and 1,169,967 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, November 2007.