



Military Response to Omicron and COVID-19: Federal Armed Forces and National Guard

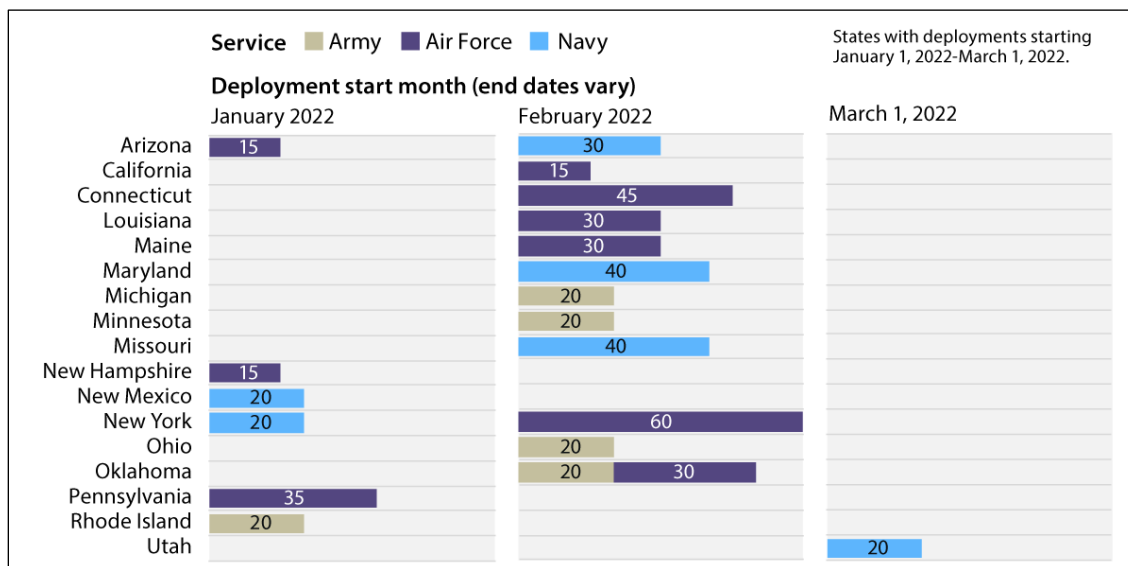
Updated March 28, 2022

On November 26, 2021, the World Health Organization designated the [Omicron mutation](#) of the SARS-CoV-2 virus a “variant of concern.” Since then, Omicron has become the [dominant strain](#) of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in the United States. After a case surge from December 2021 through mid-January 2022, COVID-19 cases in the United States have dropped, with hospitalizations and deaths following the same trend after a short delay. The deployment of military and National Guard personnel remains an issue for Congress given the role they both played in responding to the Omicron COVID-19 surge and the role that they might play in the event of a future surge of a new variant.

Deployments of Federal Armed Forces for Hospital Support

The [U.S. Army North](#), U.S. Northern Command’s Joint Force Land Component Command, manages the Department of Defense’s COVID-19 response operation in support of the Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Health and Human Services. [Since August 2021](#), “approximately 1,275 military medical personnel from the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and U.S. Navy are continuing to work alongside civilian healthcare providers in civilian hospitals, helping treat COVID-19 patients in a total of 30 states and the Navajo Nation.” **Figure 1** shows U.S. Army North’s [COVID-19 deployments for hospital support starting January 1, 2022](#).

Figure 1. U.S. Army North COVID-19 Hospital Support
 Deployments (i.e., number of military medical personnel) with Scheduled Start Dates from January 1 to March 1, 2022



Source: CRS using data from U.S. Army North (Fifth Army), “[Fact Sheet: U.S. Army North COVID-19 Hospital Support Beginning August 2021](#),” March 1, 2022.

Notes: Any possible ongoing deployments, in these or other states, have not been depicted. CRS cannot confirm whether they occurred as planned.

Deployments of the National Guard

On January 21, 2021, President Biden signed the “[Memorandum to Extend Federal Support to Governors’ Use of the National Guard to Respond to COVID-19 and to Increase Reimbursement and Other Assistance Provided to States](#).” It approved 100% federal cost sharing for full-time National Guard duty; the funding status [was later extended](#) through April 1, 2022. For more information on National Guard funding as a response to the pandemic, see CRS In Focus IF11483, *The National Guard and the COVID-19 Pandemic Response*, by Alan Ott.

Figure 2 and **Table 1** provide the number of National Guard personnel by state from January 7, 2022, to February 24, 2022, activated in support of steady-state COVID-19 operations. According to the National Guard Bureau, [steady-state](#) COVID-19 operations include “ongoing operations, security cooperation, and other shaping or preventive activities. It should include measurable and achievable objectives that contribute to the strategic end states.”

State	1/7/22	1/14/22	1/21/22	1/28/22	2/4/22	2/11/22	2/18/22	2/24/22
GA	482	482	482	482	482	482	482	482
GU	206	125	125	184	181	181	181	181
HI	306	306	306	306	306	306	306	306
IA	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
ID	0	0	0	0	46	52	64	64
IL	11	11	11	11	11	11	11	11
IN	540	532	870	1,092	1,063	1,068	1,060	1,051
KS	0	0	0	79	79	79	79	0
KY	244	445	560	556	565	576	593	566
LA	849	916	973	973	996	963	952	952
MA	423	557	557	1,176	1,018	1,048	1,040	1,037
MD	143	147	1,486	811	818	822	827	855
ME	207	206	208	374	367	362	357	357
MI	152	152	152	152	152	152	152	152
MN	669	664	649	604	604	545	520	488
MO	38	38	38	38	38	0	0	0
MS	3	3	3	3	0	0	0	0
MT	105	105	105	105	105	105	105	105
NC	186	189	194	200	212	232	232	231
ND	59	58	55	57	57	54	52	53
NE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
NH	104	177	177	246	246	240	237	239
NJ	436	648	662	673	670	665	664	520
NM	94	94	100	103	104	102	100	100
NV	130	130	92	142	146	144	144	143
NY	1,394	1,429	1,575	1,804	1,959	1,978	1,967	1,934
OH	2,499	2,425	2,366	2,446	2,220	1,920	1,505	759
OK	5	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
OR	29	64	64	1,224	1,226	1,224	1,223	1,223
PA	117	114	120	191	193	188	187	185
PR	609	613	658	674	669	659	653	577
RI	28	213	217	214	213	208	198	192
SC	111	111	41	41	41	41	41	41
SD	0	5	5	7	7	4	1	0
TN	398	398	37	37	37	37	38	38
TX	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292	1,292
UT	95	95	95	190	190	190	190	190

VA	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
VI	109	109	109	109	109	108	106	106
VT	110	120	117	128	128	129	128	128
WA	5	5	5	111	117	117	121	121
WI	538	533	523	519	580	573	555	555
WV	513	513	513	513	513	513	513	513
WY	23	156	24	24	22	22	22	22
Grand Total	14,700	15,604	17,073	19,656	19,554	19,122	18,433	17,240

Source: CRS using data from National Guard Bureau, January-February, 2022.

Notes: Each week's number gives a snapshot of the National Guard activated in that state or territory at that time. Includes DC and several U.S. territories. CRS cannot confirm the presence or absence of active National Guard in any territory not included. Data received on a weekly basis.

Author Information

Hannah Fischer
Information Research Specialist

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