



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. These domestic equipment shortfall and reserve capacity issues are attributed, in part, to the large deployment of National Guard personnel (currently more than 30,000) and equipment deployed in the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF). Meanwhile, 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 September 10, 2007, 3,296 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 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 which 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 8/31/07)

Army National Guard	352,897
Air National Guard	105,892
Total Strength	458,789

Source: National Guard Bureau, September 14, 2007.

Table 2. Current Major National Guard Deployments

(as of 9/1/07)

In Iraq — Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)	12,609
Army National Guard	11,625
Air National Guard	984
In Afghanistan — Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)	1,793
Army National Guard	1,372
Air National Guard	421
In the United States — Operation Jump Start (OJS) as of 9/10/07	3,296
Army National Guard	2,660
Air National Guard	636

Source: Department of Defense, Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs; September 1, 2007; and National Guard Bureau, Public Affairs, September 10, 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 - July 31, 2007**

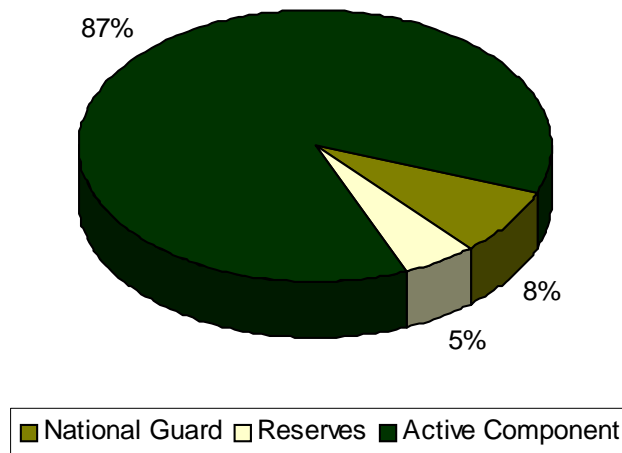
242,271

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

National Guard and Reserves in Iraq

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

Table 3. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Iraq

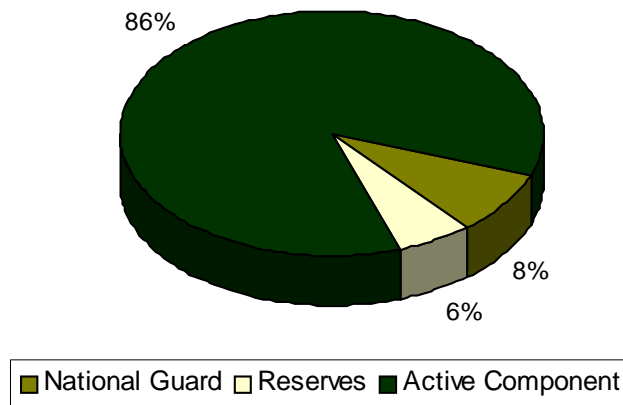
Reserve Component	20,615
National Guard	12,609
Army National Guard	11,625
Air National Guard	984
Reserves	8,006
Army Reserve	6,544
Air Force Reserve	592
Navy Reserve	669
Marine Reserve	201
Active Component	144,992
Army	103,520
Air Force	10,922
Navy	4,219
Marines	26,331

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

National Guard and Reserves in Afghanistan

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Afghanistan who are currently deployed as of September 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 Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, September 2007.

Table 4. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Afghanistan

Reserve Component	3,281
National Guard	1,793
Army National Guard	1,372
Air National Guard	421
Reserves	1,488
Army Reserve	1,126
Air Force Reserve	270
Navy Reserve	92
Marine Reserve	0
Active Component	20,775
Army	15,062
Air Force	4,417
Navy	850
Marines	446

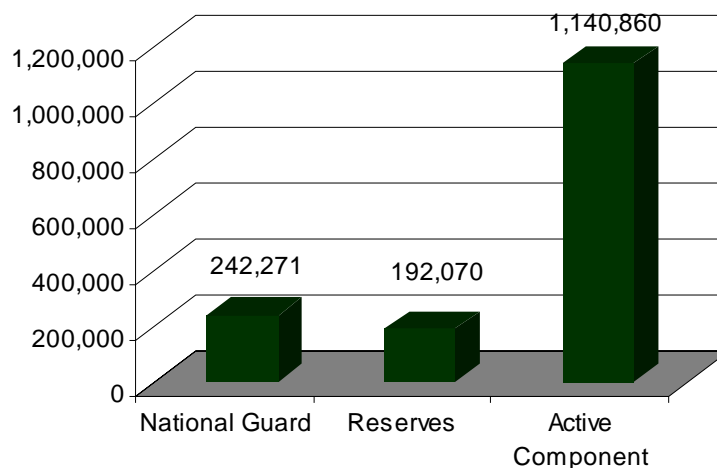
Source: Data from Department of Defense, Office Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs, September 2007.

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

Between September 2001 and July 31, 2007, a total of 242,271 National Guard, 192,070 Reserves, and 1,140,860 Active Component personnel have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan (shown in **Figure 3** below).

Figure 3. Deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan, 2001-2007



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