

The *National Guard* – Securing America’s Future

The Adjutants General Association of the United States

October 2011

BATTLE-READY:

National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are on the front lines - at home and abroad - doing everything necessary to defend America and our way of life. For more than two decades, National Guard Soldiers and Airmen have been engaged *every day* in emergency activations across the United States and in operational missions in dozens of countries throughout the world.

National Guard citizen-warriors serve longer and retire later than active duty counterparts, creating a National Guard experience advantage that is unequaled. The National Guard is at the heart of the finest fighting force the world has ever known.

ACCESSIBLE:

The National Guard has *always* answered our nation’s call – through mobilizations and a steady stream of voluntary deployments, Guard Soldiers and Airmen are “Always Ready – Always There.”. The National Guard, like all reserve components, is immediately **accessible** at the call of national command authorities for federal operational missions. On a typical day, more than 6,000 Guardsmen are performing missions in the homeland and more than 45,000 are executing federal operations abroad. The Adjutants General Association of the U.S. (AGAUS) has also conveyed its support to Congress for legislation that will substantially *enhance accessibility* of National Guard and other reserve components for missions currently performed by active duty forces. Our national security can be further enhanced by National Guard leader participation in processes that adjudicate Army, Air Force and DoD resource decisions and military advice to the President.

Unlike our active duty counterparts, National Guard Soldiers and Airmen live and serve in every Zip Code in America. This connection with every community is an incalculable national security advantage. With Air National Guard units and Army National Guard units in every state, territory and the District of Columbia, all Governors have the capacity through their Joint Force Headquarters to quickly tailor and employ multi-service solutions to the spectrum of domestic operations.

FLEXIBLE:

The National Guard’s flexibility is on display every day, providing forces and capabilities across the entire spectrum of hard and soft power. In responding to hurricanes, floods, earthquakes, national special security events and terrorist attacks, National Guard Soldiers and Airmen protect our nation from an ever changing array of natural hazards and adaptive human threats. The following are a few examples of the Guard’s extraordinary adaptability.

When terrorists attacked the U.S. on 9-11, Guardsmen *immediately* responded on the land and in the air. Guard fighter pilots patrolled our skies. Guard security forces also deployed to airports to swiftly restore commercial aviation, preserve our economy and strengthen our national security. When Hurricane Katrina ravaged the Gulf Coast, the National Guard generated the largest air bridge since the Berlin Airlift - deploying more than 40,000 National Guard Soldiers and Airmen and more than 13,000 tons of food, water and medical supplies to impacted communities within the first 96 hours. By

the sixth day, more than 50,000 Guardsmen, from every state, territory and the District of Columbia, were actively supporting storm victims and civil authorities.

Through unique Military-to-Military *State Partnerships* (SPP) with sixty-three (63) nations, the National Guard enhances the defense capacity and counter-terrorism capabilities of countries willing to work toward shared values, thereby strengthening our own national security. Among other benefits, SPP alignments have resulted in joint National Guard and Partner country military deployments in support of multi-national operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Many of the deployments have been with former members of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR), a transformation of historic proportions made possible by the National Guard's enduring and impactful global engagement.

The National Guard has also created one-of-a-kind Agri-Business Development Teams and other specially tailored units that draw upon the civilian skills and expertise of its members, laying the groundwork for long-term "soft power" solutions in the midst of conventional military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

The National Guard is also our nation's specially trained and equipped emergency response force for chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) incidents, including terrorist attacks. To meet this threat, the National Guard has formed unique CBRN task forces (nearly 12,000 Guardsmen, comprising nearly 70% of DoD's overall capability) specially trained and equipped to conduct technical search and extraction, medical triage, medical decontamination and onward movement of victims from CBRN "hot zones." Guard CBRNE Enhanced Response Packages and Homeland Response Force units are geographically dispersed to ensure rapid responses within a 250 mile radius to more than 80 percent of the American population.

Finally, as the world becomes more dependent on information technology, the cyber domain is one of our nation's greatest strengths and at the same time one of our greatest national security vulnerabilities. Recognizing that DoD can never train or retain sufficient numbers of full time cyber specialists, the National Guard is fielding cyber units manned by citizen-warriors whose civilian careers keep them at the leading edge of cyber technology innovations. The National Guard already provides a majority of the entire DoD capability in several critical cyber domain mission areas.

AFFORDABLE:

The United States is at a critical juncture. Although threats to our nation at home and abroad have not diminished, fiscal constraints are forcing decreases in Defense spending. Today's National Guard is **the most cost-effective component** of the Department of Defense.

Dual-missioned National Guard members protect communities at home and throughout the world for roughly 1/3 the life-cycle cost of active duty Soldiers and Airmen.

For the cost of a single active duty service member, our nation can train, retain and have ready to deploy three to four (3 - 4) National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. That's real combat capability. That's real deterrence. That's real fiscal responsibility.

For 11.5% of the Army budget (2010), the Army National Guard provides 32% of the Army's total personnel and 40% of its operating forces. For 7% of the Air Force budget (2010), the Air National Guard provides 19% of the Air Force's total personnel and 30-40% of the AF's fighter, tanker and airlift capacity.

SUSTAINABLE:

For 375 years, the Guard has been America's foundational military force. The Army National Guard predates creation of the active duty Army by 139 years. The Air National Guard also predates formation of the active duty Air Force.

Throughout history, we have relied on a strong National Guard augmented by periodic growth in active duty army and air forces to meet surges in national security requirements. This strategy enabled our nation to prevail in WW I and WW II and in our Cold War confrontation with the Soviet Union. We've also had cyclical growth in the active services to support recent operations in the Middle East and Central Asia.

After each of the World Wars and again at the conclusion of the Cold War, the end strengths of active duty army and air forces were drawn down, defense spending was reduced and national security was preserved through a balanced reliance on the National Guard and reserves and smaller but largely forward-deployed active duty forces. These cycles of active duty growth and force reductions have allowed our nation to achieve critical cost savings, maintain a credible deterrence posture and preserve an immediate global surge capacity – all in a prudent and fiscally sustainable way.

Our current military capacity is a national treasure, but one we can ill afford to sustain in its present configuration. It can be *sustained* and *preserved*, however, by a combination of active duty end strength reductions and selective conversion of active duty units and missions to the National Guard. We've done this many times in recent history. When the air sovereignty mission of the U.S. was too costly for the active duty Air Force to execute, entire elements of the air sovereignty system (the all-important Air Defense Sectors) were converted "in place" from active duty status to Air National Guard unit status. The units remained in place in existing facilities but became part of the host state's Air National Guard force structure. Unit members transferred from active duty to Air National Guard status, insuring that taxpayer investments and national defense capabilities were preserved at a fraction of the former cost. The Army has also realized significant cost savings by allocating conventional active Army ground-based intermediate missile defense missions to the Army National Guard.

Other current active duty Air Force and Army force structure can be transferred from costly active duty status to more cost-effective National Guard status by converting operations "in place" in the states in which the units, equipment, facilities and personnel are located or by transferring the mission(s) and force structure to other states or locations where National Guard operational and fiscal efficiencies can be maximized.

The *National Guard* is America's battle-ready, accessible, flexible, affordable and sustainable military force:

The National Guard provides solutions for our nation's most pressing financial and national security concerns. At a time when fiscal responsibility is so critical to our national security, the National Guard provides full operational capability, both at home and abroad, at a fraction of the cost. The Guard is combat proven and combat ready. It is accessible. Its flexibility is on display at home and abroad every day. National Guard Soldiers and Airmen are an affordable and sustainable military force. *The National Guard: Securing America's Future.*