

## **The Army National Guard**

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is a component of the Army, which consists of the Active Army, the Army National Guard and the Army Reserves. The Army National Guard is composed primarily of traditional Guardsmen—civilians who serve their country, state and community on a part-time basis (usually one weekend each month and two weeks during the summer). Each state, territory and the District of Columbia has its own National Guard, as provided by the Constitution of the United States.

The National Guard Bureau (NGB) was formed to assist the states, territories and District of Columbia to procure funding for the Guard, administer policies and act as a liaison between the Departments of the Army and Air Force and individual states. The NGB is a joint bureau of the Departments of the Army and Air Force, and functions in both a staff and an operating capacity for each component.

Army National Guard units are based in communities and are located in every state and territory. Guardsmen serve where they live. Many cities and towns have their own armory where the National Guard conducts training.

The Guard has more than 3,600 units located in more than 2,700 communities across the 56 states and territories. Each state has a unique force structure and a varying number of units, personnel, armories and Army training sites.

## **History**

The National Guard is the oldest U.S. Armed Forces component. In the early 1600s, citizens banded together in Salem, Massachusetts to defend themselves against attacks and help with the Revolutionary War. This militia later became known as the National Guard.

## **Dual Missions**

Having the distinguished honor of being citizens and Soldiers, National Guard members typically have full-time careers within their own communities but are prepared to serve our country in their National Guard roles when needed.

The National Guard has dual missions, state and federal. National Guard members aid Americans during natural disasters and civil emergencies such as Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, and serve in federal missions such as Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. The National Guard currently has more than 358,000 Citizen-Soldiers and continues to serve America and her people at home and abroad.