



## **CRS Report for Congress**

# **National Guard Personnel and Deployments: Fact Sheet**

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### **Summary**

The National Guard is an increasingly vital component in the defense and security of the United States. Its federal role has grown with its major roles in U.S. and coalition country defense operations worldwide over the past several years. The Guard has been deployed in significant numbers in the Global War On Terrorism (GWOT) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) as a full-scale partner in the armed services Total Force policy. Meanwhile, in May 2006, over 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 January 5, 2007, at least 5,670 National Guard forces were deployed for this border security operation (Operation Jump Start). This report briefly presents statistical information on the National Guard's 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 role in the defense and security of the United States. Traditionally, the Guard has been both a domestic security force and a major 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.

Selected statistics on the force levels of the National Guard within the mix of U.S. military forces deployed in major 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 12/31/06)

Army National Guard (approximate)	347,100
Air National Guard (approximate)	106,000
<b>Total Strength (approximate)</b>	<b>453,100</b>

**Source:** National Guard Bureau, January 10, 2007.

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

<b>In Iraq — Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF)</b>	<b>14,618</b>
Army National Guard	13,508
Air National Guard	1,110
<b>In Afghanistan — Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF)</b>	<b>4,932</b>
Army National Guard	4,569
Air National Guard	363
<b>In the United States — Operation Jump Start (OJS) as of 1/5/07</b>	<b>5,670</b>
Army National Guard	4,536
Air National Guard	1,134

**Source:** Department of Defense, Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff, Legislative Affairs; January 2, 2007; and National Guard Bureau, Public Affairs, January 10, 2007.

**Total National Guard Personnel Ever Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan  
in Support of OIF and OEF,  
September 2001 - November 30, 2006**

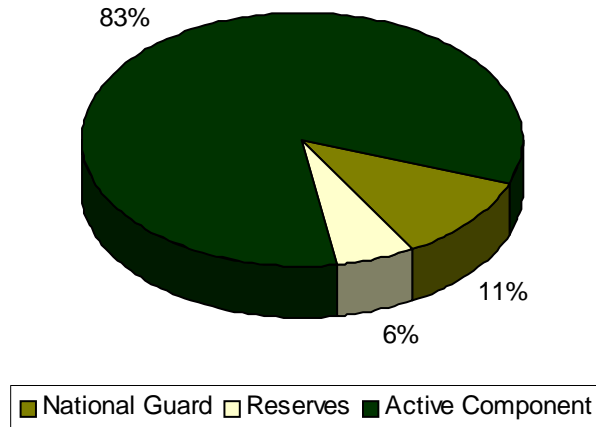
**230,778**

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

## National Guard and Reserves in Iraq

The percentages of National Guard and Reserves troops in Iraq who are currently deployed as of January 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, January 2007.

**Table 3. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Iraq**

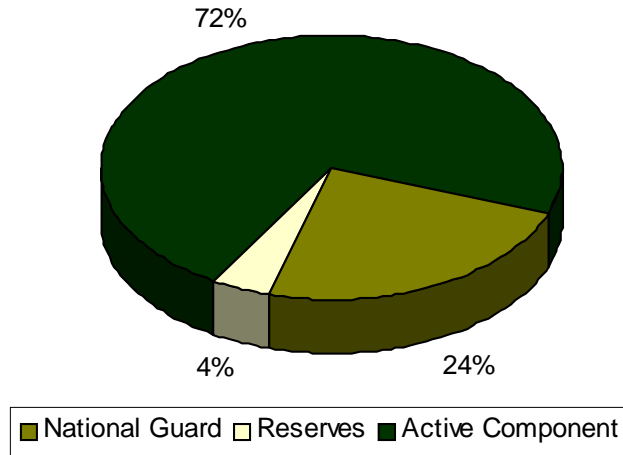
<b>Reserve Component</b>	<b>22,273</b>
<b>National Guard</b>	<b>14,618</b>
Army National Guard	13,508
Air National Guard	1,110
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>7,655</b>
Army Reserve	5,600
Air Force Reserve	412
Navy Reserve	639
Marine Reserve	1,004
<b>Active Component</b>	<b>106,296</b>
Army	72,598
Air Force	8,591
Navy	3,553
Marines	21,554

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

## National Guard and Reserves in Afghanistan

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

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



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

**Table 4. Reserve and Active Component Forces in Afghanistan**

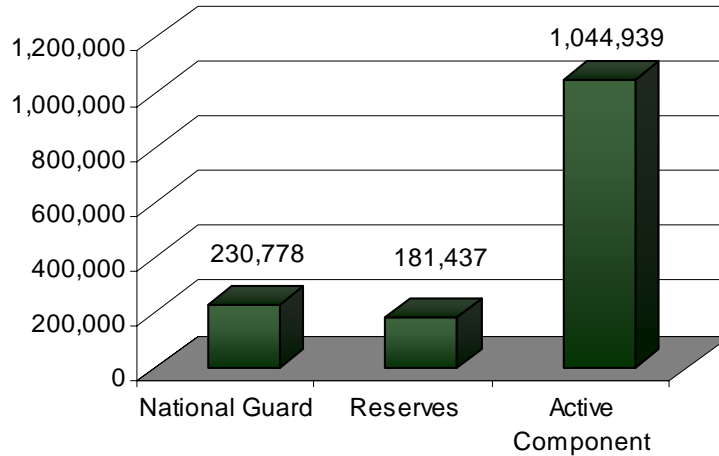
<b>Reserve Component</b>	<b>5,697</b>
<b>National Guard</b>	<b>4,932</b>
Army National Guard	4,569
Air National Guard	363
<b>Reserves</b>	<b>765</b>
Army Reserve	622
Air Force Reserve	122
Navy Reserve	19
Marine Reserve	2
<b>Active Component</b>	<b>15,250</b>
Army	10,841
Air Force	3,240
Navy	926
Marines	243

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

## Total U.S. Forces Deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan, September 2001 - November 30, 2006

Between September 2001 and November 30, 2006, a total of 230,778 National Guard, 181,437 Reserves, and 1,044,939 Active Component personnel have been deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan (shown in **Figure 3** below).

**Figure 3. Deployments in Iraq and Afghanistan**



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