

An Indispensable Force

➔ Among our Nation's most valuable resources are the Reserve Components (RC) of our Armed Forces: over 1 million men and women, Citizen Warriors—trained volunteers from all the military services, who respond when called, leaving home, family, and profession for the greater good.

Today's RC is the most ready in history after a significant investment since September 11, 2001.

We have called our Citizen Warriors numerous times over our history. Nearly half of the forces now serving in Iraq and Afghanistan are Reservists called to Active Duty.

Over 800,000 Reservists have been mobilized since 9/11. Reservists must now be ready, trained, and provided with the best equipment to do what our Nation asks of them. This has transformed the National Guard and Reserves into a force that is seamlessly integrated with the Active forces for roles across the spectrum of conflict and engagement.

Utilizing the Guard and Reserve to best advantage increases the capacity of the Total Force.

The Guard and Reserve serve in full spectrum missions at home and abroad as both an operational and strategic force.

Reliance on the Guard and Reserve as a source of operational capability augments and reinforces the Active Component while balancing stress across the Total Force.

When rebalancing the force to meet future national security challenges, the Guard and Reserve should be the force of first choice for those tasks for which they are particularly well suited, owing to their overall cost-effectiveness and skill sets that they provide.

One of the keys to tapping into this reservoir of Guard and Reserve capabilities is predictability—the type of mission assignment, as well as when the mission will occur and how long it will last.

Predictable, challenging and relevant missions set the conditions for the Guard and Reserve to be successful in planning and executing assigned tasks within the unit or individual's capabilities.

Keeping the RC prepared through periodic, predictable deployments is prudent and adds value to the Total Force by maintaining Guard & Reserve readiness and relieving stress on the Active Component.

The Services should continue to refine rotational availability models to achieve improved predictability and deployment to dwell objectives of 1:2 for the Active Component and 1:5 for the Reserve Component.

Using the Reserve Components on a rotational basis maintains readiness, expands availability, and capabilities.

Family and Employer Support are critical:

➔ Experience shows where proper efforts and supportive resources are employed, family and employers will step up as they have for the past 10 years.

The President has made the care and support of military families a top national security policy priority. We recognize that military families from the National Guard, and Reserves, support and sustain troops fighting to defend the Nation. They care for our wounded warriors, and they survive our fallen heroes. The well-being of military families is an important indicator of the well-being of the overall force. At a time when America is at war and placing considerable, sustained demands on its troops and their families, it is especially important to address the family, home, and community challenges facing our all-volunteer force. For years to come, military families and Veterans will continue to face unique challenges, and at the same time will also have great potential to continue contributing to our communities and country.

Because the Guard and Reserve are more community-based than the Active force, they provide a unique connection to the American people that facilitates awareness and engagement on key national security concerns.

This connection is essential to maintain the Nation's commitment to our military forces.

Additional Capacity in the Guard and the Reserve:

➔ With appropriate advanced planning, Guard and Reserve forces have the potential to greatly increase the DOD's capacity in many of the emerging mission areas.

Over the last 10 years, the Guard and Reserve demonstrated their readiness and ability to make sustained contributions.

The long term predictable nature of many of the capabilities required in the future is ideally suited for the Guard and Reserve.

Reaping the Benefits:

➔ Where the Guard and Reserve are used in a deliberately planned way and are seamlessly integrated and complementary members of the Total Force, the nation reaps a number of benefits:

1. Adds Value—using the RC in its one year of “rotational availability” permits it to prepare for five years with personnel costs that are only a small fraction of a force on full time active duty, without associated infrastructure and sustainment costs, while adding significant strategic depth.
2. Well-suited for a wide range of overseas and domestic missions—beyond war-fighting, the RC builds partnerships with Allied militaries, helps rebuild other nations' infrastructure and defends our homeland.

Ready

Relevant

Experienced

Stay Connected!



Reaping the Benefits (cont.):

- 3. Increase dwell time for active duty—by providing relief of Active Components, increasing their dwell to deployment ratio and sustaining that force for future use.
- 4. “Keeping faith” with Guard and Reserve—honors a commitment to personnel who volunteered to serve, knowing that this may involve periodic recalls to active duty under arduous or hazardous conditions. Today’s Citizen Warriors also made that conscious decision with the expectation that they would be judiciously used and given meaningful work to do. DOD and the Services must meet this expectation.
- 5. Availability of unique skills and capabilities—Guardsmen and Reservists bring valuable professional, technical and managerial skills from the private sector that match well with many current and future DOD requirements.
- 6. Valuable continuity & experience— Many experienced military veterans remain in the RC, providing full partnership between our Nation’s armed forces and civilian employers.
- 7. Homeland Defense and Defense Support to Civil Authorities (Total Force responsibilities)— When a natural or man-made disaster occurs, it makes sense to call our National Guard and Reservists to active duty from the local area for assistance. The National Guard is often the center of gravity for DOD response operations.
- 8. Higher utilization rates of expensive assets resulting from shared equipment and facilities between AC and RC units.
- 9. Proven ability to recruit and retain prior-service personnel that preserves the expensive training costs invested in these service members while on active duty.

Reaping the Benefits (cont.):

- 10. Performing military duties more frequently—in *harm’s way*, the RC have evolved into more of an operational force.

We must sustain the commitment to maintain RC readiness because the Nation needs our National Guard and Reserves as full partners in defense.

The United States cannot continue to remain engaged globally without engaging the Guard and Reserve.

<http://ra.defense.gov>



AN INDISPENSABLE FORCE



Committed

Valued

The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense
RESERVE AFFAIRS

