QUESTIONS YOU MAY BE ASKING
ABOUT THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD:

Is the Army National Guard a **state or federal** force?  

How many individual overseas Army National Guard Soldier mobilizations have there been since 9/11?  

Army National Guard members only serve **one weekend a month**, and two weeks a year, right?  

Are Army National Guard Soldiers **real Soldiers**? They just do “support” jobs in the Army, right?  

During a disaster, don’t Army National Guard Soldiers just **fill sandbags** and drive trucks?  

How does the Army National Guard **impact MY community**?  

I know there are buildings called “armories” in my community—**what are those buildings** and who uses them?  

Could the Army National Guard respond if the country was attacked by a **chemical or biological** weapon?  

What’s the difference between the **Army National Guard and the Army Reserve**?  

**What can I do** to support the Army National Guard?

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**FRONT COVER:**  
Center: Captain Devin Ciminero, Rhode Island National Guard; Photo by Senior Airman Sean Martin.  
Lower left: Sergeant Lee Savoy, Louisiana National Guard; Photo by Specialist Rashawn Price.  

**BACK COVER:**  
Photo by Staff Sergeant Marc R. Balo, Colorado National Guard.
**One Purpose**

**Preserve the National Defense.**

**Mission 1**

*Provide Soldiers to the Nation*

Army National Guard Soldiers, under the order of the president and control of the nation’s military, serve equally alongside our active duty counterparts. Whether it’s to fight in times of war, participate in military exercises with allied forces, or to serve during a large-scale national emergency, Army National Guard Soldiers perform the same jobs, in the same way, as active duty Soldiers. However, because Army National Guard Soldiers are engaged in civilian life and employment, they are able to bring unique civilian-acquired training and skills to the fight.

**Mission 2**

*Provide Soldiers to States*

The Army National Guard is a resource for the nation’s governors—a mission enshrined in our Constitution. Unless called to federal service, Army National Guard Soldiers are under the control of their governors as commander-in-chief. Many of the restrictions on the use of military forces within the United States, such as the use of Soldiers for law enforcement, do not apply when Soldiers are serving under the command of their governor. This gives governors broad authority to use their Army National Guard assets, from protecting lives and property during a natural disaster, to maintaining peace during civil emergencies.

**Let Us Introduce Ourselves.**

Two Missions. One Purpose.

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**A Fundamental Shift—Today’s Guard in Your Hometown**

The Army National Guard has been used in a variety of fashions since its origin as a colonial militia force. Over time, the Army National Guard has evolved from being a “strategic reserve” that was never meant to see combat except in the most dire of circumstances, to regular use overseas and at home. In fact, in most situations where there is an emergency here on U.S. soil, the Army National Guard is the military’s first responder. Overseas, the Army National Guard is on par with the active duty Army in terms of Soldier quality—many leaders have reported that they can’t distinguish us from our active component brothers and sisters in combat. We have never been more experienced, better trained or more fully equipped than we are today. The nation has made substantial investments in the Army National Guard, ensuring that it is and will continue to be a full partner in today’s Total Army.

Hometowns, districts, and states across the nation directly benefit from the Army National Guard in their communities. For example, did you know that nearly all Army National Guard military construction projects are largely built by local citizens and small businesses, bringing jobs to the local economy? Were you aware that most Army National Guard equipment, such as helicopters and radios, are “dual use”—keeping our communities safe during disaster when not in use overseas? Did you know that Army National Guard Soldiers live and perform duty in every congressional district in the nation?

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**We Are a Federal and State Force.**
OUR FEDERAL MISSION:
CONFLICTS, CONTINGENCIES AND PARTNERSHIPS

We Go to War
First and foremost, members of the Army National Guard are Soldiers. As of the end of 2012, over 48 percent of all Army National Guard Soldiers had deployed at least once. Army National Guard Soldiers have served with distinction in every major conflict our nation has fought. In fact, the Army National Guard has the oldest military units in the nation—tracing its heritage to 1636, with the Massachusetts Bay Colony militia.

We Partner with Allies
Did you know that the National Guard is directly partnered with over 60 countries across the globe, and has been for decades? We bring our unique civilian skill sets, such as police and emergency management; farming and agriculture; and state/local government administration in mentoring and assisting our partner nations. We also work with allied militaries to strengthen our shared defense through training exercises and operational missions. By strengthening our allies, we strengthen our nation’s security.

We Serve the Nation at Home
Every year, thousands of National Guard Soldiers from across the country are called to active federal service for duty here in the U.S. From manning missile defense batteries in Alaska, supporting Customs and Border Protection, to conducting security patrols at the Super Bowl, we quickly come together under the Department of Defense when our nation calls.

“WE TURNED OUT THE LIGHTS IN IRAQ.”
When Soldiers from the Minnesota National Guard escorted the last vehicles out of Iraq on Dec. 18, 2011, they knew they were making history. They represented the effort of hundreds of thousands of Soldiers, including 4,475 servicemen and women who lost their lives serving in Iraq, by bringing the Iraq War to a close. Minnesota’s 1st Squadron, 94th Cavalry, 1st Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division (known as the “Red Bulls”) drove over 1,000,000 miles in support of the mission to close combat operations in Iraq. It was the largest deployment from Minnesota since World War II.

DID YOU KNOW?
The first full division to see ground combat in World War II was the 32nd Inf. Div. (now 32nd Infantry Brigade Combat Team), a National Guard division out of Michigan and Wisconsin. The 32nd has served in combat from World War I to Afghanistan.

WE ARE SOLDIERS.
Beyond Sandbags and Big Trucks

The Army National Guard does a lot more than truck in food or fill sandbags when disaster strikes. From using helicopters to rescue people from rooftops and drop fire suppressant on forest fires, to augmenting police forces in airports and on the road, our Soldiers bring the awesome power of the U.S. military to bear in the face of catastrophe.

“...before the wind stops blowing.”

Many people join the National Guard because they want to help their communities in times of need. Army National Guard Soldiers don’t hesitate when disaster strikes—they spring into action. When disaster strikes, our Soldiers will show up at armories in their local community, ready and waiting for orders. They arrive on scene quickly—before the wind stops blowing.

Organized for Combat, Ready for Disasters

Army National Guard units are designed for combat. Our units have the structure, equipment, and training to function independently anywhere in the world. The skills that enable a brigade combat team to mobilize and succeed in Afghanistan also enable it to mobilize to disaster areas in the United States, bringing all the communication, transportation, logistics, and specialized skills it normally brings to the battlefield to a disaster at home.

“Sterling was upside down, unconscious, bleeding profusely from the head, and making terrible noises—something between snoring and wheezing.”

In September 2012 on the rocky, steep face of Mount Bancroft, Colo., Sterling Roop had just escaped almost certain death. His climbing partner, Adam Hermans, recounts the story: “Sterling climbed the face with no problem, and was just walking along the top ledge when he slipped...to our horror, his slip propelled him off the ledge and he rag-dolled back down the face he’d just climbed, smashing and crashing into ledges and the rock wall along the way...fortunately, Alex held and caught the belay and Sterling stopped about eight feet above the ground.”

Sterling’s climbing partners kept him alive for hours, treating his severe head injury and providing first aid until wilderness rescue climbers arrived to render advanced medical treatment. Once Sterling was stabilized, he needed to be evacuated. That’s when a Colorado Army National Guard helicopter medevac team came in.

Army National Guard helicopter pilots maneuvered their Black Hawk helicopter into position for the hoist rescue. Flight medic Staff Sergeant (SSG) Eric Williams was lowered to Roop’s location—but during Williams’ landing, a sudden wind caused him to slam against the rock face. He suffered a serious broken bone in his leg and his face shield was smashed. In great pain but undeterred, Williams made it to Roop and, as clouds began to engulf the helicopter, ensured that Sterling was hoisted to the helicopter. Sterling was taken to a local hospital.

Next, the Army National Guard helicopter had to pick up their injured medic. The crew flew back and, running low on fuel, lowered the hoist to Williams. He attached himself to the hoist and was lifted to the helicopter, which transported him to the local hospital for treatment. SSG Williams underwent surgery for his broken leg. Roop walked out of the hospital the day after he was rescued.

Providing People and Resources to Your Hometown

MISSOURI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD

MISSOURI ARMY NATIONAL GUARD CONDUCTS SEARCH AND RESCUE AFTER THE MAY 2011 JOPLIN, MO. TORNADO.

NEW YORK NATIONAL GUARD SOLDIERS EVACUATE PATIENTS FROM BELLEVUE HOSPITAL IN MANHATTAN DURING HURRICANE SANDY. SOLDIERS EVACUATED 500 PATIENTS AND KEPT THE 1,000-GALLON EMERGENCY GENERATOR FUEL TANK FUELED BY CARRYING FIVE-GALLON FUEL JUGS UP 13 FLOORS OF STAIRS DURING THE STORM.

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Army National Guard Soldiers support communities, families, and at-risk youths across the country. For example, the National Guard’s Youth ChalleNGe program prepares at-risk teens and high school dropouts for high school equivalency tests and for future employment, military service and higher education opportunities. A September 2012 RAND study showed a 166 percent return on the nation’s investment in the youth ChalleNGe program.

Hiring Heroes

When Sergeant Amy Feltzin and Specialist Jayme Roth of the Oregon National Guard’s 1249th engineer Company were on convoys in Afghanistan, the dream of working on a film set in Hollywood seemed a long-shot. However, less than six months after returning from their deployment, they found themselves doing just that, thanks to “Operation Hollywood,” a program designed to find veterans jobs in the film industry.

Beyond the Uniform

The sense of community service in our Soldiers goes beyond responding to disasters or serving in harm’s way. Many of our Soldiers are active participants in the community off-duty. And, as seen at left, Guard Soldiers often lead local volunteer efforts and give back to their community on their own time.

We Set the Example

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The Citizen Soldier

What does it mean to be a Citizen Soldier? Typically, Army National Guard Soldiers spend most of their time as civilians. They work normal jobs in your community. They are your small business owners, teachers, doctors, lawyers, and other professionals who serve in the Army National Guard on a part-time basis at least 39 days per year (full-time when called to state or federal active duty).

More than 10% of the officers of the Cheyenne Police Department also serve as National Guardsmen.

Sergeant Rob Dafoe, Cheyenne Police Department

Dan Long, a Cheyenne police officer is also the commander of Wyoming National Guard’s 197th Public Affairs Detachment. His skills transfer between jobs. Many Citizen Soldiers report that their military experiences often aid their civilian work, and vice versa.

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DID YOU KNOW?

There are over 5,000 first responders, 3,500 non-EMT medical personnel, 5,000 teachers and 2,600 engineers who also serve as Army National Guard Soldiers.

Off-duty Army National Guard Soldiers from Washington, D.C. and other places volunteer to rebuild a home for a disabled Maryland resident during National Rebuilding Day.

Larry Litton, assistant director for the motion picture “How Sweet It Is,” said the veterans are picking their jobs up quickly. “So far they are doing great, they show up on time and are willing to do what needs to be done,” said Litton, “being willing to learn and paying attention is half the job.”

Alex Adams, a production assistant for “How Sweet It Is,” is also a former Marine. He said the ability to think ahead gives veterans an advantage on a film set.

“The great thing about hiring veterans is they’re always on time, they know how to multitask, and they’re very accustomed to taking direction.”

Suzanne Delaurentiis, Hollywood Producer

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“We are your neighbors.

Major General Daniel Long, the Adjutant General of Virginia, congratulates a Youth ChalleNGe Graduate.

Captain Dan Long of the Wyoming National Guard also serves as a Cheyenne police officer.

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America's Hometown Force: Army National Guard Soldiers and Federal Spending in Your State

Federal spending consists of the payroll for actively drilling Army National Guard Soldiers and civilian support, Army National Guard military construction projects, utilities, municipal services, engineering services, fire and emergency services, maintenance and repair, minor construction, environmental compliance, environmental conservation and pollution prevention.

This map does not reflect all federal spending. For example, federal education benefits (i.e. the G.I. Bill) and payroll for Army National Guard Soldiers deployed overseas is not included.

Source: Fiscal Year 2012 Army National Guard data.
Today’s Armories and Readiness Centers

Army National Guard armories and readiness centers are in over 2,600 communities across the nation and are an undeniable and iconic part of the American landscape. Beyond serving as community centers and sports complexes, Army National Guard facilities are the base of operations for launching emergency response missions as well as providing storage and staging of key equipment. In addition, armories often serve as shelters for citizens during disasters. Strategically located facilities enable rapid response to emergencies as well as provide a continual presence among the populations that the Army National Guard protects.

Facilities for the Community and the Guard

Many of our facilities are used by members of the community and local government as well as Army National Guard Soldiers.

The North Carolina National Guard partnered with the North Carolina Division of Emergency Management and the state departments of Public Safety and Transportation to construct a Joint Force Headquarters (below). Over 500 employees from a variety of state agencies and the National Guard work at the facility every day.

“IT IS ALL ABOUT GIVING BACK TO THE COMMUNITY.”

“It’s great training and we are helping out the City of Cohoes,” said Specialist Charles Adams from Fishkill, N.Y., as he was operating a chain saw. Soldiers from the 1156th and 152nd engineer Companies, New York National Guard (below), spent half of their two-week annual training in 2012 cutting down trees and leveling ground along portions of the Old Erie Canal. The work was conducted under the national Innovative Readiness Training program, which allows Army National Guard Soldiers to perform community projects when the work involves the unit’s combat tasks and the requested assistance is not reasonably available from a commercial entity.

Dual-Use Equipment: Federal Equipment for State Missions

From trucks and helicopters to radios and medical tents, our resources are ready not only for war, but for missions here at home. No other force in the nation is able to immediately bring military equipment and capabilities in times of disaster or emergency on location like the Army National Guard. The vast majority of our equipment is available and at the disposal of state governors for use in saving lives and property in their state when not supporting federal missions.

Specially painted Arizona Army National Guard helicopters battle wildfires in Arizona state parks.

More than 600 Hurricane Irene evacuees from Ocean City, Md., are housed in the Maryland National Guard’s Fifth Regiment Armory in Baltimore.

A North Dakota National Guard bulldozer prepares to enter the Souris River near Minot, N.D. The Guard was tasked with removing an old bridge that was eroding a levee.

Net Zero Water, Energy and Waste

The Army National Guard takes environmental stewardship and efficiency seriously. Efforts are underway across the country to reduce the National Guard’s water, energy, and landfill usage. For example, the Kentucky National Guard’s Harold Disney Training Center (above) generates nearly its entire energy requirement from solar panels, using fewer community utility resources and saving taxpayer money.

YOUR INVESTMENT IN US IS AN INVESTMENT FOR ALL.
• **NEW YORK’S 2ND CIVIL SUPPORT TEAM** (CST) was the first complete military unit to mobilize and respond to downtown Manhattan on 9/11. Within 90 minutes of the first plane crashing into the North Tower of the World Trade Center, most of the unit’s members had self-mobilized to their base in Scotia, N.Y.; within hours they were on site.

• **IN THE EVENT** of a chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear or explosive (CBRNE) attack in the United States, the first “on the ground” military response will be one of 57 CSTs, 10 National Guard Homeland Response Force (HRF) packages, or 17 CBRNE Enhanced Response Force Packages (CEERFP). Ninety-seven percent of America lives within a five-hour response window of a National Guard HRF or CEERFP.

• **SOME ARMY NATIONAL GUARD** units have successfully employed goats in wildfire fighting efforts. In one example, the Utah Army National Guard used over 1,200 goats to eat forest underbrush—a fuel source for wildfires. A wildfire later in the year “jumped” bulldozed fire lines in minutes, but stopped at the goat firebreak, saving a nearby community.

• **AT THEIR PEAKS**, more than 5,900 Army National Guard Soldiers supported National Special Security Events in fiscal year 2012, including the Republican and Democratic National Conventions, and over 10,500 Guard Soldiers were on the ground responding to weather events such as hurricanes, wildfires and tornados. At the height of the Hurricane Sandy response in FY2013, 7,969 National Guard members from 17 states were on the ground.

• **OVER 80,000** Army National Guard Soldiers (many from Louisiana) were deployed overseas when Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast in 2005. Demonstrating its flexible and responsive-ness, the National Guard quickly mobilized over 50,000 personnel on short notice from every state and territory in the nation to the Gulf Coast in support of rescue and recovery efforts.

• **IN 2005**, Staff Sergeant Leigh Ann Hester (right), a Kentucky National Guard Soldier, became the first woman to earn a Silver Star for valor in close-quarters combat. By charging enemy-filled trenches in Salman Pak, Iraq, SSG Hester and others repelled a 50-insurgent ambush on a supply convoy they were protecting. Thirty-six Silver Stars have been awarded to Guard Soldiers since 9/11.

• **THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD** traces its roots to 1636 with the Massachusetts Bay Colony militia. Massachusetts Minutemen fired the first shots (“heard ‘round the world”) of the Revolutionary War, and units from the state played a decisive role in the Battle of the Bulge during World War II.

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**THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD: A STATE AND FEDERAL FORCE**

- **Command/Control**
- **Communication/Coordination**
- **Membership/Advising Through Chairman, JCS**

**THE NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU AND THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD**

The National Guard Bureau is an element within the Department of Defense responsible for administering National Guard programs and distributing resources. It serves as the channel of communications on all matters pertaining to the National Guard between the Army, the Air Force, and the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia.

The Bureau is led by a Chief, who is a four-star general responsible for advising the Secretary of Defense, and the Secretaries and Chiefs of Staff of the Army and Air Force on matters relating to the National Guard. The Chief is also a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The Chief works closely with the Director of the Army National Guard to ensure that Army National Guard issues are appropriately addressed to senior Army and Defense leaders and that National Guard programs and policies are synchronized with and implemented by the Army National Guard in every state.

**THE RESERVE COMPONENT**

The military is divided into active and reserve components. The reserve component is comprised of seven entities (Army and Air National Guards; Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and Coast Guard Reserves). The purpose of the reserve components, as prescribed by law, is to: “...provide trained units and qualified persons available for active duty in the armed forces, in time of war or national emergency... whenever more units and persons are needed than are in the regular components.”

While the Army Reserve and Army National Guard are both in the reserve component, the Army Reserve remains a federal force only, while the Army National Guard is a state-led force unless called into federal service to augment the active component Army.
High-Impact Option for National Defense

- The Army National Guard is an experienced, battle-tested, part-time force, ready to be called to full-time duty when the nation requires.
- Because it is a part-time force, the total costs to the nation are relatively small. The nation gets a large number of trained Soldiers (358,200) for a relatively small amount of money (approx. $17B).
- The nation gets a two-for-one package with the Army National Guard—a force of trained Soldiers to augment the active Army, and a force of responders available for state and local disaster and emergency missions.
- The vast majority of Guard equipment and facilities are dual use—a helicopter transporting troops in battle today can serve as a local rescue helicopter tomorrow; an armory can transform from a community center to an emergency shelter in hours.

Well Equipped and Trained

- Training and modern equipment are essential for ensuring that our Soldiers are ready at any time for both combat and non-combat missions.
- Military construction for Army National Guard facilities remains a priority. Guard facilities—nearly half (46 percent) of which are over 50 years old—must be capable of handling our modern equipment.
- Local and state leaders and citizens benefit when their National Guard units are properly equipped and trained. The equipment used overseas is the same equipment used at home; subpar equipment puts Soldiers and citizens at risk.

Consistently Utilized

- Participation in large-scale combat exercises and the use of advanced simulation technology will allow us to hone and maintain our hard-earned combat skills.
- Participating in missions that build relationships with allied nations abroad and strengthen our communities at home (e.g. State Partnership Program, cyber defense, Innovative Readiness Training/community service projects, etc.) will enhance our capabilities and readiness for future combat and domestic missions.

Understanding Who We Are

You—our nation’s civic leaders—shape and influence the future of our Army National Guard. Talk to our Soldiers, visit our facilities, meet with our leaders—understand what we bring to your community and to our nation, and allow us to dispel the common myths and misunderstandings about the Army National Guard. Let us show you who we really are and what we are truly capable of.

We are confident that you will find we are an incredibly flexible tool for state and national leaders, able to be used in a wide range of missions. We bring capabilities to both the nation and to communities that no other branch of the armed forces can match. We feel a deep connection to our historical roots and to the guiding principle, enshrined in the Constitution, that our nation’s defense is a duty to be shared amongst our fellow citizens. We are woven into the fabric of communities across the nation, quietly ready to transform from civilians to Soldiers on a moment’s notice.

Those who have gained an appreciation for the Army National Guard—whether through family relationships, professional contact, or through a rescue or recovery effort in their community—understand our critical roles both at home and abroad. We are proud to carry on our nearly 400-year tradition of patriotic service and sacrifice, and we stand ready to answer the nation’s call today and tomorrow.

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