

*Our Promise To America  
Always Ready, Always There*

# ★ NATIONAL ★ GUARD

**2021** *YEAR IN REVIEW*







# OUR PROMISE

**BY GEN DANIEL HOKANSON**  
Chief, National Guard Bureau

Always Ready, Always There! Four simple, yet powerful words that represent the selfless service of our Citizen-Soldiers, Airmen, and their families, who stand ready to answer our Nation's call. Today's National Guard is a professional, well-trained and highly experienced operational force integral to the security of our Nation.

After two decades of conflict in Iraq and Afghanistan, the National Guard stands stronger, more capable, and readier than ever. We are ready to maintain our Nation's competitive edge in this new strategic environment focused on China and Russia. We are ready to fight and win any and all future conflicts as part of the Joint Force. We are ready to use our battle-tested skills, equipment, training, and personnel to come to the aid of our American communities in times of crisis.

As our Nation faces this time of transition, challenged by a global pandemic, extreme weather, civil disturbances, and uncertainty about what the future may hold, our fellow Americans can rely on one thing—the Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard, who have defended our country and protected our communities for 385 years. In more than 2,800 locations across the 54 states, territories, the District of Columbia, and around the globe, we are ideally poised to respond to the needs of our Nation.

**We are the National Guard, and this is our promise to America:  
Always Ready, Always There.**



# ARMY

**39% OF THE ARMY'S OPERATIONAL FORCES**

**336,000 SOLDIERS ACROSS 8 DIVISIONS**

- ★ 27 Brigade Combat Teams
- ★ 10 Combat Aviation Brigades
- ★ 2 Special Forces Groups + 10 Special Ops Detachments
- ★ 1 Security Force Assistance Brigade
- ★ 42 Multifunctional Brigades – 16 Maneuver Enhancement; 10 Sustainment; 8 Expeditionary Combat Aviation; and 8 Field Artillery Brigades
- ★ 57 Functional Support Brigades and Groups
- ★ 14 Command & Control Headquarters
- ★ 1,462 aircraft
- ★ 24,378 buildings, 1,343 firing ranges and 110 training centers in 2,339 communities

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# AIR

**24% OF AIR FORCE'S OPERATIONAL FORCE**

**108,300 AIRMEN ACROSS 90 WINGS AND 10 CENTERS**

- ★ 44 Mobility/Tanker/Training Squadrons
- ★ 34 Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance Squadrons
- ★ 27 Fighter/Training Squadrons
- ★ 18 Cyber/Net Ops Squadrons
- ★ 15 Combat Communications Squadrons
- ★ 14 Attack/Training Squadrons
- ★ 10 Combat Search and Rescue Squadrons
- ★ 14 Air Control/Air Defense Squadrons
- ★ 8 Special Operations Squadrons
- ★ 7 Red Horse Squadrons
- ★ Over 1,000 Space Professionals in 14 Space units across 7 states and Guam providing nuclear warning, offensive space electromagnetic warfare, military satellite communications, radar missile warning
- ★ 1,064 aircraft
- ★ 6,044 buildings, 176 installations (83 bases, 66 GSUs, 27 tenant locations, 8 ranges) in over 159 communities





# NATIONAL GUARD MISSIONS



## COMBAT CAPABLE

Two decades of investment and modernization in the National Guard has paid measurable dividends to our Joint Force's lethality and our nation's security

- ★ Nearly 19,000 Army and Air Guard members, on average, supported combatant command missions overseas every day, in places like Afghanistan, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Kosovo, Kuwait and Qatar last year.
- ★ Provides 40% of Air Force's conventional overseas MQ-9 Reaper Unmanned Aerial Vehicle sorties and hours.
- ★ The Pennsylvania Army Guard's 56th Stryker Brigade Combat Team will deploy to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California in June to test their combat proficiency.
- ★ The California Army Guard's 79th Infantry Brigade Combat Team will deploy to the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana in July.
- ★ 2,340 Air National Guard personnel and 86 aircraft were exposed to realistic combat situations during Red Flag and Green Flag exercises in FY21.
- ★ In FY22, nearly 1,800 Air Guard Airmen and 29 aircraft tested their combat mettle.



## SECURING THE HOMELAND

Despite a pandemic, the National Guard met every request for homeland support in 2021

- ★ National Guard Soldiers and Airmen served their communities 10.2 million personnel days, supporting missions such as COVID-19, wildfires, civil disturbances and hurricanes in 2021.
- ★ Guard members from 35 states supported 30 severe weather events.
- ★ Guard members logged 181,826 personnel days responding to hurricanes and tropical storms; 7,422 days for floods; 424 days for severe weather; 7,208 days for tornadoes; and 24,068 days for winter storms in 2021.
- ★ Guard Soldiers defend the National Capital region, and man non-stop, 24-hour intercontinental ballistic missile defense systems from Alaska and California.
- ★ Air Guard pilots flew over 2,000 sorties protecting America's air space against external threats in 2021 while operating 15 of the 16 NORAD Aerospace Control Alert sites.



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## BUILDING PARTNERSHIPS

Enduring Guard relationships benefit our Combatant Commands and impact global security.

- ★ Integrated deterrence demands greater cooperation with partners. The National Guard's network of 93 allies and partners through the State Partnership Program (SPP), directly supporting objectives outlined in the National Defense Strategy.
- ★ After 9/11, 28 SPP partner countries contributed troops to coalition operations - 15 of those SPP countries deployed forces alongside their National Guard partners.
- ★ The SPP continues to grow by an average of two new partnerships per year.
  - » In 2021, we added four new partners: Austria, Cabo Verde, Turkmenistan, and the Maldives.
  - » Two more countries are expected to join the SPP in 2022.







# PEOPLE

**DEVELOPING HEALTHY, RESILIENT, AND PROFESSIONAL SOLDIERS AND AIRMEN FOR ANY MISSION, ANYWHERE**

- ★ Sustain the balance between Guard members' civilian careers, military careers, and family commitments.
- ★ Ensure Guard member's pay, benefits, and treatment reflect their service and sacrifices.
- ★ Foster a diverse, inclusive professional environment that rewards talent and provides opportunity.
- ★ Prioritize achieving and maintaining physical and mental wellness.

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# READINESS

**HAVING THE MANNING, TRAINING, AND EQUIPMENT NECESSARY TO SUPPORT THE NATIONAL DEFENSE STRATEGY AND THE JOINT FORCE ALLOWS US TO MEET THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITIES IN TIMES OF EMERGENCY**

- ★ Generating combat-capable, interoperable, and sustainable National Guard forces to meet Joint Force missions.
- ★ Integrating the National Guard into future force design.
- ★ Strengthening alliances and partnerships through worldwide engagement.
- ★ Enhancing national resilience by strengthening homeland defense and protecting critical infrastructure.

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# MODERNIZATION

**ENSURING EQUIPMENT, FACILITIES, AND PROCESSES ARE MODERN, DEPLOYABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND INTEROPERABLE**

- ★ Balance funding today's training and deployment requirements with modernization and recapitalization needs to ensure tomorrow's advantage.
- ★ Invest in key capabilities and facilities through sustained and predictable budgets.
- ★ Maintain interoperable systems and equipment for both combat and homeland response.
- ★ Find innovative organizational solutions to meet future challenges, increase national resilience, and seamlessly integrate with the Joint Force.

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# REFORM

**MAXIMIZING OUR VALUE TO THE AMERICAN TAXPAYER BY  
ELIMINATING INEFFICIENCIES AND INVESTING IN THE PEOPLE  
AND PROGRAMS THAT MAKE THE GREATEST DIFFERENCE**

- ★ Structure our organization to reduce unnecessary bureaucracy and most efficiently support the Joint Force.
- ★ Deliver rapid and meaningful innovation by leveraging the National Guard dual-use model.
- ★ Enforce budget discipline, transparency, and accountability across all levels to be proper stewards of taxpayer funds and maximize purchasing power.
- ★ Emphasize the importance of fostering an organizational culture of performance and accountability.

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# COMMUNITY SUPPORT

**PROGRAMS MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN NEARLY 2,800  
COMMUNITIES IN 50 STATES, 3 TERRITORIES AND DC**

- ★ 10.2 million personnel days in support of domestic emergencies in 2021.
- ★ Served more than 7.6 million days providing nearly 14 million vaccinations, security, logistics, and food in 2021.
- ★ The National Guard is part of a whole-of-government response that has helped resettle over 50,000 Afghan evacuees since August.
- ★ The 40 National Guard Youth ChalleNGe and 5 Job Challenge academies across the nation have graduated more than 190,496 cadets since its inception in 1993.
- ★ National Guard units host STARBASE events where fifth-grade students can conduct hands-on activities related to aviation, science, technology, engineering, math, and space exploration.

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# ALL IN FOR THE FUTURE

## FOR 385 YEARS,

*the National Guard has fulfilled its promise to America: Always Ready, Always There. By prioritizing people, readiness, modernization, and reform, we are preparing for the future challenges our Nation will face.*

*By prioritizing people, we are working to ensure our force is physically and mentally resilient, able to balance the demands of the mission with the demands of their civilian careers, and fully representative of the communities we serve.*

*By prioritizing readiness, we are better able to anticipate the challenges of the future, from strategic competition to climate change, and leverage the Guard's unique capabilities to enhance the Joint Force and support the National Defense Strategy.*

*By prioritizing modernization, we position ourselves for the best possible deployment, sustainability, and interoperability when we are called to fight our Nation's wars and serve our communities.*

*By prioritizing reform, we maximize our value to the American taxpayer by eliminating inefficiencies that hamper our agility, and investing in the people and programs that make the greatest difference.*

*Our Nation relies on the National Guard to defend democracy, restore peace, and bring hope and security to American communities in times of crisis.*

***We boldly face the future: Always Ready, Always There.***

