



Dual Status Commander (DSC)

State Status

A DSC is a member of the state's chain of command, subject to the orders of the governor and adjutant general of the DSC's state, and exercises command of assigned NG forces. The governors of 53 states/territories have established standing memorandum of agreement with the secretary of defense for the DSC appointment status command.

Title 32, United States Code, Section 325, authorizes a National Guard officer to be placed on active component without losing their Guard component status.

Federal Status

The DSC is a member of the federal chain of command, subject to the orders of the president, the secretary of defense, and the supported combatant commander. They are subject to the orders of the commander of U.S. Northern Command when in the 48 contiguous states, Alaska, the District of Columbia and the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands. DSCs are subject to the commander of U.S. Pacific Command when in Hawaii and the territory of Guam. In addition, DSCs exercise command of assigned federal military forces.

An active-duty (Title 10) Army or Air officer is authorized to accept a commission in the NG of a state without losing his/her active component status.



OVERVIEW

A DSC is an officer of the Army National Guard (ARNG), Air National Guard (ANG), commissioned officer of the Regular Army or Regular Air Force who has completed specialized training and certification. DSCs are jointly managed by the commander of U.S. Northern Command and the chief of the National Guard Bureau and may, by law, serve in two statuses (federal and state) simultaneously.

SIMULTANEOUS SERVICE

The president and the governor of the state must both agree to the establishment of a DSC. DSC appointment can be terminated by the secretary of defense or the governor at any time.

The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), signed in December 2011, facilitated the use of DSCs to provide unity of effort between state and federal forces in achieving common objectives in a disaster response or in supporting a national event.

MULTIPLE STATE EVENT

In the event of a multi-state disaster or national event requiring a DSC, separate DSCs would be appointed to command in each of the affected states due to state law prohibitions (where appropriate/where required). Consistent with current laws and procedures, the governor of a state does not use the DSC to request Department of Defense forces or equipment.

ORIGINS: The DSC was first implemented for the G8 Economic Summit in June 2004. Brig. Gen. Terry Nesbitt (Georgia NG) commanded more than 4,800 Soldiers and Airmen, 317 NG personnel from other states, 43 members of the Georgia Defense Force and approximately 2,400 Title 10 personnel, including ARNG and ANG units mobilized under T10.