Army National Guard History

Direct descendent of the militias of the 13 English colonies; oldest component of the U.S. military, with units dating back to 1636

According to U.S. Constitution, both a state and federal force, under control of the governor unless called to active service by the President

Has fought in every American war from 1636 to present combat in Afghanistan

Provided 18 combat divisions to the American Expeditionary Forces in World War I and 19 infantry divisions that served in either the European or Asiatic-Pacific Theatre in World War II

Has mobilized more than 500,000 soldiers for federal missions since Sept. 11, 2001

At one point in 2005, Army National Guard brigades made up more than 50% of U.S. Army combat brigades in Iraq, the Army Guard's largest combat role since WWII

In its state role, a key player in homeland defense and disaster relief; within two weeks of Hurricane Katrina's landfall, more than 42,000 Army National Guard troops from across the country were deployed to the Gulf Coast for relief operations

Always Ready, Always There