



Army National Guard History



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

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



Fought in every American war since its ancestor's founding in 1636 to present combat in the Middle East

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



Mobilized more than 660,000 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 World War II



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. Responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, natural disasters and civil unrest in 2020 saw record numbers of Army Guard personnel serve their communities in unprecedented ways.

Always Ready, Always There