

Lesson 3

The Army Reserve Components



Key Terms

citizen-soldiers
combatant
militia
mobilize
Reserve Corps

What You Will Learn to Do

- Distinguish among the reserve components of the U.S. Army

Linked Core Abilities

- Do your share as a good citizen in your school, community, country, and the world

Skills and Knowledge You Will Gain Along the Way

- Identify the two Congressional acts that had an impact on the organization and structure of the Army reserve components
- Compare the missions of the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve
- Contrast the major types of units the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve contribute to the Army force
- Identify the three categories of the Army Reserve
- Define the key words contained in this lesson

Introduction

The Army reserve component is an important part of the Total Force comprised of active duty forces, the National Guard, the Reserves, and Department of Defense (DoD) civilians. The Guard and Reserves are similar in that they are composed of citizen-soldiers who devote themselves only part-time to military duty. The Guard and Reserves differ in that the National Guard reports to the State Governor, while the Reserves are federal forces who report to the president. The great advantage of both the Guard and the Reserves is they represent significant military capability at relatively small cost; they pack a big bang for the buck. The Department of Defense can't do its job without civilian employees. DoD civilians are subject to deployment to combat zones. DoD civilians lend important capabilities and provide constitutional controls over the military.

This lesson examines each component of the U.S. Army Reserve.

Total Force Policy

Prior to 1973, the Guard and Reserves were viewed as measures of last resort—America's last line of defense. In 1973, General Creighton Abrams penned the Total Force Policy, directing the complete integration of the Guard and Reserves into the federal military mission.

General Abrams' initial purpose was to ensure public support for future military actions, particularly in light of the failure in Vietnam. One of the reasons the United States lost the war in Vietnam was because the public lost faith in the military. What Abraham Lincoln said 140 years ago remains true today: "With public support anything is possible; without it nothing is possible." As citizen-soldiers, the Guard and the Reserves come from your city, town, neighborhood, and home. When they are called to duty, their absence is noticeable, and suddenly the crisis doesn't seem so distant, foreign, or remote. The community unites to wish them good luck and a safe, speedy return home.

An added benefit to General Abram's Total Force Policy is that the Guard and the Reserves provide highly cost effective military forces. Today, the Guard and the Reserves comprise 50 percent of the United States' military capability, yet they cost less than 10 percent of the military budget.

The Total Force is composed of the National Guard, the Reserves, and DoD civilians. Today, the Guard and the Reserves are indispensable to maintaining the defense of our nation as they stand on the frontlines alongside our Active Duty forces.

The Army National Guard

The Army National Guard (ARNG) is one component of the Army (which consists of the Active Army, the Army National Guard, and the Army Reserves.) The ARNG is composed primarily of traditional Guardsmen—civilians who serve their country, state, and community on a part-time basis (usually one weekend each month and

two weeks during the summer). Each state, territory, and the District of Columbia have its own National Guard, as provided for by the Constitution of the United States.

The ARNG was founded on October 7, 1683, in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The Massachusetts Bay Colony organized two units (one infantry regiment and one engineer battalion) as part of their local **militia**. These units also became part of the Continental Army during the Revolutionary War (1775–1783).

In August 1824, the New York State Militia was the first state to apply the label *National Guard*. New York took the title as a compliment to the famous French hero, Marquis de Lafayette, who had commanded the French National Guard in Paris in 1789 and who had made great contributions in America's war for independence. Gradually, other states adopted the popular term for their units, and by 1896, only three states retained the word *militia* in their official designation.

The National Defense Act of 1916 had a more profound impact on the Army National Guard than any other legislation of the past century. That act and its amendments

- **Officially designated state organized militias as the National Guard.**
- **Changed the organizational structure of the various National Guard units to conform to the structure of the Active Army.**
- **Provided increased assistance from the federal government to the National Guard. Although the National Guard would still be under the control of state authorities, this legislation meant that when Guard units reached established Army standards, they became eligible for federal support.**

Another law passed by Congress in 1933 organized all Guard units into the National Guard of the United States; therefore, Congress made it possible for the Commander-in-Chief to give the National Guard an Army mission (or order) without having to wait for state governors to call those forces to duty.

In the late 1940s, Department of the Army established the Air National Guard, which was first used in the Korean War (1951–1953).

Throughout our proud history, as the nation's oldest military organization, the Army National Guard has protected America—in war and peace—from all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

Contribution to the Army Force and Its Missions

The National Guard has a unique dual mission that consists of both federal and state roles. For state missions, the governor, through the state Adjutant General, commands Guard forces. The governor can call the National Guard into action during local or statewide emergencies, such as storms, fires, earthquakes, or civil disturbances.

In addition, the president of the United States can activate the National Guard for participation in federal missions. Examples of federal activations include Guard units deployed to Bosnia and Kosovo for stabilization operations and units deployed to the Middle East and other locations in the war on terrorism. When federalized, Guard units are commanded by the Combatant Commander of the theater in which they are operating.

Key Note Term

militia – a citizen army—as distinct from a regular army or a body of full-time, professional soldiers—that is usually controlled by the individual states and subject to call during an emergency by the government of a country

Aiding America's Communities, Our State Mission

As previously mentioned, the Army National Guard exists in all 50 states, 3 territories, and the District of Columbia. The state, territory, or district leadership are the Commanders-in-Chief for each Guard. Their Adjutants General are answerable to them for the training and readiness of the units. At the state level, the governors reserve the ability, under the Constitution of the United States, to call up members of the National Guard in time of domestic emergencies or need.

The ARNG state mission is perhaps the most visible and well known. Nearly everyone has seen or heard of Guard units responding to battle fires or helping communities deal with floods, tornadoes, hurricanes, snowstorms, or other emergency situations. In times of civil unrest, the citizens of a state can rest assured that the Guard will be ready to respond, if needed. During 2001, 34,855 Guardsmen were called to duty in response to the needs of their community or state.

The ARNG is represented in more than 2,800 communities in 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands.

Organization of the Army National Guard

As part of the Army, the ARNG has to comply with DoD and Department of the Army orders and regulations. Therefore, the Guard needs some way to gain access to the Secretary of the Army and the military chain of command (such as Army Chief of Staff). The organization that accomplishes this is the National Guard Bureau (NGB).

The NGB was formed to assist the states, territories, and District of Columbia in procuring funding for the Guard, administering policies, and acting as a liaison between the Departments of the Army and Air Force and the states.

The NGB is a joint bureau of the Departments of the Army and Air Force and functions in both a staff and an operating capacity for each component. The NGB performs the federal functions of the ARNG and the Air National Guard (ANG). The senior leader at NGB is the Chief, usually a Lieutenant General.

The ARNG and the ANG are each led by their own director. The two directors are selected by the Secretary of the Army (for the Director of the ARNG) and the Secretary of the Air Force (for the Director of the ANG). Both directors report to the Chief of the NGB. Full-time staffs support the Chief of the NGB and the directors of the ARNG and the ANG.

When ARNG units are not mobilized under federal control, they report to the Adjutant General of their state or territory, or in the case of the District of Columbia, the Commanding General. Each Adjutant General is responsible to the governor of his state (or in the case of the District of Columbia, the mayor).

Most members of the National Guard are part-time soldiers (referred to as **citizen-soldiers**). Typically, National Guard members are required to attend one drill weekend each month and one annual training period (usually two weeks in the summer) each year. Weekend drills usually consist of one Saturday and Sunday each month but occasionally include reporting for duty on Friday night. Initially, all nonprior service personnel are required to attend initial entry training (IET), also known as Basic Training. After Basic Training, soldiers go to their Advanced Individ-

Key Note Term

citizen-soldiers – members of the National Guard or Army Reserves

ual Training (AIT), which teaches them the special skills they will need for their job in the Guard.

Accomplishments of the Army National Guard

Since its founding in the 1600s, the National Guard has participated in every American conflict, including the current Iraqi War. In this century alone, ARNG units have fought and distinguished themselves in both World Wars, the Korean War, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, Afghanistan, and now Iraq. In fact, individual Guardsmen received 14 Medals of Honor during World War II.

The National Guard plays a vital role in the Army, it must be ready to **mobilize** and deploy on very short notice. The 9-11 terrorist attacks on the United States resulted in the activation of thousands of ARNG personnel. A total of 9,600 National Guard men and women were already on duty across the country September 14, 2001, when President George W. Bush approved an order to call up as many as 50,000 additional members of the National Guard and Reserves. Soon after the attacks, ARNG soldiers were ordered to the nation's airports to assist in security. The governors of many states also called on the Guard to protect critical facilities and infrastructure. The mission of homeland security for the Guard is not a new mission nor is it the only mission; it is only one of the many missions of the Guard.

President Bush's call for a temporary tour of active duty for up to 50,000 National Guard and Reserve troops in a military operation on American soil was the largest of its kind since 1916.

ARNG soldiers were an essential element in controlling wildfires throughout the western United States. Many of the Guard troops were called in August 2001 to assist civilian firefighters in Oregon, Nevada, Montana, California, South Dakota, Arizona, and Washington.

In 1996 and 1997, National Guard personnel deployed overseas to support **combatant** commands and U.N. peacekeeping forces and soldiers from 16 states and territories participated in a record 160 state emergency call-ups and local civil authority missions.

Today's National Guard is better trained and equipped to respond to any state or national emergency than at any time in its history. In peacetime, National Guard units train alongside active Army commands or units for which the Army has associated them through partnership agreements. In the event of mobilization, these Guard units would then deploy and serve with their Active Army units during wartime. The Army simply cannot enter into a major conventional war without the support of the ARNG.

The U.S. Army Reserve (USAR)

Reserves are citizen-soldiers who augment the federal Active Duty military force. Every federal military service has a reserve component: Army Reserves, Navy Reserves, Air Force Reserves, Marine Corps Reserves, and Coast Guard Reserves.

Active Reserves are reservists who have been called to active duty or otherwise fill a small number of permanent positions.

Key Note Term

mobilize – to assemble, prepare, or put into operation (personnel, units, equipment, and so on) for war or a similar emergency

Key Note Term

combatant – engaged in combat

Ready Reserves are reservists who may be called to active duty to augment forces in times of war or national emergency. There are two categories of Ready Reserves:

- **Selected Reserves train regularly and are combat ready**
- **Individual Ready Reserves have a federal commitment and are subject to recall, but don't train regularly**

Standby Reserves are reservists who fulfill civilian jobs that are considered key to national defense, for example, port authority and doctors. Standby Reserves don't train and don't serve in units. Essentially they are federalized so they can't desert their jobs in times of war or national emergency.

Retired Reserves include anyone receiving or waiting to receive retirement pay.

Just like the Guard, the Reserves perform a vital role in service to the nation by supporting and fulfilling federal missions on a daily basis. Also like the Guard, the Reserves may be activated for federal duty by the president or Congress.

Public attitude and economics played an important role in the origins of the Army Reserves. In our country's early days, citizens were suspicious of a large Active Army, and they knew it would be difficult to financially support such a large standing army. Therefore, a reserve military structure became attractive because it provided a capability to mobilize military forces when the situation arose.

The USAR originated on April 23, 1908, the result of lessons learned from the Spanish-American War and the realization that the Regular Army could not provide enough medical personnel to take care of the needs of an expanded wartime force. Its beginnings were quite modest: commissions as first lieutenants were initially given to 160 Army contract physicians who became the first members of the Federal Reserve Corps. From that small beginning has grown the modern day Army Reserves of thousands of units and hundreds of thousands of well-trained men and women.

The National Defense Act of 1916 formally established the **Reserve Corps**. It also established the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (JROTC), provided for an Officers' Reserve Corps through direct commissioning up to the grade of major, and formulated a Reserve Officers' Training Program at civilian colleges and universities.

The Reserve Forces Act of 1955 reorganized the Army Reserves. It was important legislation because although federal budget cuts forced the Active Army to cut its strength, that act increased the size of the Army Reserves (despite eliminating 15 Army Reserves divisions) and stipulated that Reserves units would receive more modern equipment over a 15-year period.

Contribution to the Total Army Force and its Missions

The Army Reserves proved itself during World War I, when over 160,000 officers and enlisted Reservists served their country. World War II saw over 200,000 Reserve officers and enlisted soldiers take part in the war. These Reservists, in the words of Army Chief of Staff General George C. Marshall, "constituted the principal available asset that we possessed at this time. Without their assistance, the program (expansion of the Army) could not have been carried out except in a superficial manner." The Korean War, and to a much lesser extent, the Vietnam War, also saw Army Reserves involvement.

Key Note Term

Reserve Corps – trained military members available to augment active duty forces in times when activated

The USAR really proved itself, though, during Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, when tens of thousands of Army Reservists and hundreds of units were called up and sent to the Persian Gulf region. It is fair to say that the victory in the Gulf could not have occurred without the contributions of the Army Reserves.

The Army Reserve has two major missions:

- 1. To organize, train, equip, and provide units to help defend our nation with little or no advance notice in the event that Congress or the president mobilizes the armed forces.**
- 2. To provide trained individual reinforcements, officer and enlisted, as prescribed by Department of the Army mobilization plans. These soldiers would replace initial battlefield casualties, reinforce active Army units, and provide reinforcement for reserve component units that are mobilized.**

Organization of the Army Reserve

Unlike the National Guard, the Army Reserves are under federal control during peacetime. As a part of the total Army, it fulfills the Army's need for units to meet its mission requirements in times of changing national priorities and limited resources. A recent Army Chief of Staff remarked that the Active Army could not be successfully committed to a major conflict in Europe without the Army Reserves.

The Chief of the Army Reserves is an adviser to the Army Chief of Staff on Army Reserve matters. Therefore, U.S. Army Reserve Command (USARC) channels begin at the Department of the Army and flow through Forces Command (FORSCOM) to the 10 Regional Support Commands (RSCs), the 3 Regional Support Groups (RSGs), and to the 3 Army Reserve Commands (ARCOMs) located outside the continental United States.

The USAR is organized into three unique categories: Ready Reserves, Standby Reserves, and the Retired Reserves.

Ready Reserves

The Ready Reserves consists of the Selected Reserves and the Individual Ready Reserves (IRR).

The Selected Reserves consists of members assigned to Troop Program Units (TPU), Individual Mobilization Augmentation (IMA) Program positions, and the USAR portion of the Active Guard/Reserve (AGR) Program. The AGR Program offers Army Reserve soldiers an opportunity to serve in active duty positions supporting USAR programs. Here's how each works.

TPUs enjoy the adventure and camaraderie of soldiering while serving in a reserve status. TPUs are located throughout the United States and even overseas. Usually TPUs train just one weekend a month, plus two weeks of annual training. Normally, this comes out to only 38 days per year.

IMA affiliates with a particular Active Army unit, are assigned to a unit duty position, and wear the unit patch and insignia. They train with the unit at least two weeks during the year and are eligible for many USAR benefits, including the Montgomery GI Bill for the Selected Reserves.

The Ready Reserves include TPUs and the IRR that are liable for active duty as prescribed by law. The highest priority elements are the members of the TPUs who are in a paid drill status. More than 3,200 units of company or detachment size are located throughout the 50 states, Puerto Rico, Guam, and Europe. The IRR consists of members not assigned to a unit, but they can be mobilized by order of the president in response to a national emergency.

Each troop program unit is required to conduct 48 training assemblies (or drills) annually. For every 4-hour drill, the unit member receives one day's pay and one retirement point. Drills are usually conducted as four training assemblies one weekend per month at the unit's reserve center or at a training site. In addition, each unit performs at least 14 days of annual training.

The IRR is composed of trained individuals assigned to a central pool. These Reservists will augment and fill Active Army and Army Reserve units should there be a call for mobilization.

The IRR is made up of two groups. The first group is the USAR Control Group (Annual Training). The Annual Training Group consists of nonunit members (with less than three years of active duty) who have a military service/training obligation to complete.

The second group is the USAR Control Group (Reinforcement). The Reinforcement Group is comprised of nonunit members (over three years of active duty) with no training requirements.

Standby Reserves

The Standby Reserves are those units and members of the reserve components (other than those in the Ready Reserves or the Retired Reserves) who are liable for active duty only in time of declared war or national emergency. The Standby Reserves are composed of Reservists who have completed all Ready Reserve obligations but who have yet to complete their eight-year military service obligation. Members of the Standby Reserves can be in an active or an inactive status.

Active status refers to Reservists who are completing their statutory military service obligation were screened from the Ready Reserves as being key personnel or may be temporarily assigned to the Standby Reserves for hardship reasons.

Inactive status refers to individuals who are not required by law or regulation to remain members of an active status program but who desire to retain their Reserves affiliation in a nonparticipating status or have skills that may be of possible future use to the Army.

Retired Reserves

The Retired Reserves consist of individuals that completed a total of at least 20 years of creditable Federal Military Service in either the Active Army or one of the Reserve Components that the Army placed on a Reserve Retired list. In all cases, the last eight years must have been spent in a Reserve Component.

The Army may involuntarily order any of those people, if qualified, to active duty in time of declared war or national emergency when the Secretary of the Army determines that adequate numbers of qualified individuals are not available in the Ready or Standby Reserves.

Accomplishments of the Army Reserves

Since its establishment in 1916, reservists have served in both World Wars, the Korean War, the Berlin Crisis, the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, and now in Iraq. In fact, of the personnel mobilized for the Korean War over one-half were Reservists. Additionally, during the U.S. Postal Service strike in 1970, the U.S. government called 8,000 Reservists to active duty to help deliver the mail. They are currently answering the call in Bosnia and other places around the globe, carrying the torch passed on by the citizen-soldiers 200 years before who left their homes, farms, and businesses to take up arms against tyranny.

Conclusion

From its formal beginning in 1908 until now, Army Reservists have played a vital role in our nation's defense. From the hedgerows of World War I to the desert sands of the Persian Gulf, when our country needed its citizen-soldiers, they were there.

A distinguishing feature of the USAR is the important contribution Reservists make in the cities, towns, and villages in which they live and work. Their excellent training and varied experience make them valuable members of their communities. Often, Reservists put in long hours at such diverse projects as running medical clinics and clearing land for playgrounds. They stand ready to help in times of crisis or national emergency. Their contributions of time, energy, and skill can make their towns a better place to live.

If you are considering a career in the Active Army or one of the Reserve Components of the U.S. Army, you should now have a better understanding of their roles and structure. More important, you now should have an idea of the role that the Army plays in our American society.

In the next lesson, you learn about the U.S. Navy. You will learn about the different departments of the Navy and the opportunities available to you.

Lesson Review

1. What state was the first to apply the term *National Guard*?
2. Compare and contrast the National Guard and the Army Reserves.
3. What are the three major categories of the Army Reserves?
4. Define the term *citizen-soldiers*.