

NATIONAL RESERVE FORCES STATUS

COUNTRY United States of America

GENERAL INFO

The US military reserves date back to the beginning of our nation, when militias fought in our war of independence prior to the creation of a regular army. Today, our Reserve Components have about 1.1 million members and comprise over 45% of the total US military force. Thoroughly integrated across the spectrum of military missions, only a small number of combat specialties are restricted by gender.

BASIC ORGANIZATION PRINCIPLES

The US has five Federal Reserve Components (US Army Reserve, US Naval Reserve, US Air Force Reserve, US Marine Corps Reserve, and the US Coast Guard Reserve) and the organized militias (Army and Air National Guard) that can be called to federal service. The governor of each individual state may also call up the National Guard for state duty. The Coast Guard is an armed force normally under the Department of Homeland Security that assumes a Defense role during wartime. Every Reservist is a volunteer, thus there are no conscripts.

MAIN LEGISLATION

The overarching legislation for the US military is Title 10, US Code of Federal Regulations. Mobilization authority, personnel and time limitations are in 10 USC 12301, 12302, and 12304. See Table 1 for a short description of selected mobilization statutes.

Table 1: Selected Title 10 USC Mobilization Statutes

12301(d) <i>RC</i> <i>Volunteers</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires consent of individual RC member• Governors must consent to Guard activation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Reservists• No number limitation stated• No duration stated
12301(b) <i>15-day</i> <i>Statute</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• May call Ready Reserve up to 15 days per year• Governors must consent to Guard activation	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Annual Training• Operational missions• Involuntary
12304 <i>Presidential Reserve Call-up</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires Presidential notification of Congress• No Congressional action required• Not more than 270 days	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Selected Reserve, with up to 30,000 IRR• Not more than 200,000• For WMD or terrorist threat or attack
12302 <i>Partial</i> <i>Mobilization</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires Declaration of National Emergency• Report to Congress Every 6 Months	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ready Reserve• Not More 1,000,000• Not more than 24 months
12301(a) <i>Full</i> <i>Mobilization</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Requires declaration of War or National Emergency by the Congress• Requires Congress to be in session	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• All Reservists including members in an inactive status and retired members• No number limitation• Duration of War or emergency plus 6 months

FUNCTION OF RESERVES

During the Cold War, Reserves were the primary source of reinforcements and reconstitution for the Active Component. Today, they are indispensable to the nation's defense, participating with their Active counterparts in every contingency in which the US commits forces. As fully integrated partners with the Active Components, they are used in Major Theaters of War (MTW), Small Scale Contingencies (SSC), overseas deployment training exercises, and humanitarian assistance operations at home and abroad. Reserves participate in military-to-military contact programs with Partnership for Peace (PfP) nations and in peacekeeping operations. They provide domestic support to civil authorities and assist in counter-drug operations. As a result, they enable us to maintain a substantial capability at a lower cost. All Services are relying heavily on their Reserve Components to fight the Global War on Terror.

CATEGORIZATION/READINESS

All Reserve and Guard personnel are assigned to one of three categories: the Ready Reserve, the Standby Reserve, or the Retired Reserve. Table 2 shows numerical strengths assigned to each Reserve category.

a. **The Ready Reserve** consists of the Selected Reserve, the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR), and the Inactive National Guard (ING). Each is distinguished in part by the legal authority required to call it to active duty. Table 1 defines the different mobilization authorities, the length of time, and what portion of our Reserves can be accessed within each authority.

(1) **The Selected Reserve** consists of those units and individuals designated as essential to contingency or wartime missions. Individual Mobilization Augmentees (IMA) augment Active Component organizations, headquarters, or functions. Members of the Selected Reserve participate in military training at least 39 days per year. All receive compensation for their participation. Units of the Selected Reserve are resourced at levels to ensure their readiness when needed; many are maintained at readiness levels equal to active component organizations. Like the Active component, Selected Reserve units are organized as companies, battalions, squadrons, brigades, wings, groups, and divisions.

(2) **The Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)** consists of those members of the Ready Reserve who are not in the Selected Reserve or the Inactive National Guard. Each individual who enters either active or reserve service incurs a total military obligation of eight years. Individuals who serve less than the eight-year term in the Active component or in the Selected Reserve complete their service obligation in the IRR. Members of the IRR members can be mobilized as stated in Table 1.

(3) **The Inactive National Guard (ING)** consists of Army National Guard personnel who are in an inactive status. This term is not applicable to the Air National Guard. Members of the ING are attached to National Guard units, but do not participate in training activities. Members of the ING can be called up during Partial or Full Mobilization.

b. **The Standby Reserve** consists of personnel who have completed all obligated or required service or have been removed from the Ready Reserve because of civilian

employment, temporary hardship, or disability. Standby Reservists maintain their military affiliation, but are not required to perform training or be assigned to a unit. The Standby Reserve can be called to active duty during Full Mobilization.

c. **The Retired Reserve** consists of all service members who complete 20 years or more of active federal service. Retired Reserve members draw retirement pay immediately upon retiring if they completed 20 years or more in an Active Duty Status. If their 20 years of service is a combination of active and / or reserve service they begin to draw their retirement pay at age 60. In time of war or congressionally declared national emergencies, the Service Secretary, with the approval of the Secretary of Defense, can call members of the Retired Reserve to active duty.

d. **Full Time Support (FTS) personnel** are Ready Reserve, civilian, or Active personnel with full time responsibilities crucial to the success of the Reserve components. By performing the everyday administrative, logistical, and operational responsibilities of the unit, they enable the Reserve commander to devote most of his time to training.

Table 2: Ready Reserve Composition by Component (FY2005 End Strength)

Component	Selected Reserves			Individual Ready Reserve or Inactive National Guard	Total Reserve Manpower
	Unit Members	Individual Mobilization Augmentees	Active Guard Reserve		
ARNG	309,773	N/A	23,404	1,505	334,682
USAR	168,741	4,871	15,393	112,668	301,673
USNR	62,546	213	13,707	64,355	140,821
USMCR	35,974	1,706	2,258	59,882	99,820
ANG	94,303	N/A	12,127	N/A	106,430
USAFR	60,956	12,938	1,908	41,319	117,121
DoD Totals	732,293	19,728	68,797	279,729	1,100,547
USCGR	826	7,286	75	4,693	12,880
TOTAL RC	733,119	27,014	68,872	284,422	1,113,427

FUNDING

While an exact relationship between the costs of the Active versus Reserve Components is difficult to establish due to the intricacies of the federal budget and shared infrastructure, training, and equipment, in FY 2004, the Guard and Reserve represented 45 percent of the Total Force but only 8 percent of the Department of Defense budget. This represents an excellent value for a force that provides 60% of the Army's combat force, 54% of its combat support, 68.5% of its combat service support, 100% of the Air Force's air defense force, and 62% of its theater airlift.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR) is a robust, active, nationwide organization backed by federal legislation to inform and protect the rights of Reserve Component members and their employers. Their website can be found at <http://www.esgr.com/>.

TRAINING

Training is a high priority. Training is focused on achieving one standard for both Active and Reserve Components. All Reserve service members complete the same skill proficiency training alongside their Active counterparts by serving on "extended active duty for training" status. At the conclusion of initial training, personnel return to their Reserve units and train to the same standard

as Regular forces on individual tasks, but may train to a reduced number of specified unit level tasks. In addition, Reserve personnel attend professional military education courses throughout their career closely matched to their military skill and grade. Most members of the Selected Reserve participate in military training for approximately 39 days per year, although some members serve longer.

INTERNET

Access the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Reserve Affairs website at <http://www.defenselink.mil/ra/> where links to all Reserve Components and many Reserve-related websites are available.