



Army National Guard

Always Ready, Always There



ARMY NATIONAL GUARD - 375 YEARS OF VALUE AND VIGILANCE

Basics about the National Guard.

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The National Guard serves both state and federal governments. The difference between the Guard and other branches is that while Guard units are combat-trained and can be deployed overseas, they are just as likely to serve in their home communities—training just one weekend per month, and one two-week period each year.

During local emergencies, Guard units assist residents endangered by storms, floods, fires and other disasters. Guard companies deployed overseas may see combat, but are often found building schools and hospitals, training local peacekeepers or teaching local farmers more efficient techniques and better uses of their land.

The National Guard is the oldest military branch.

The National Guard's roots date back to 1636, when colonial militias—made up of ordinary citizens—would put down their plows and pick up their weapons to protect families and towns from hostile attacks. Today, Citizen-Soldiers hold civilian jobs or attend college while training part time, staying ready to defend America in the event of an emergency.

You choose your commitment to the National Guard.

When you enlist in the National Guard, you can choose to serve three, six or eight years—typically training just one weekend a month and two weeks a year. If you choose only three or six years, you'll spend the remainder of the time in the Individual Ready Reserve (IRR)—which means you won't train with a unit, but you can still be called up in the event of an emergency during the balance of your total eight-year commitment.

What is the National Guard's mission?

The Guard answers the call, at home or abroad.

The incredible versatility of the National Guard enables its troops to respond to domestic emergencies, combat missions, counterdrug efforts, reconstruction missions and more—all with equal speed, strength and efficiency.

Whether the call is coming from the state governor or directly from the president of the United States, Guard Soldiers are always ready and always there.

You'll serve your community, your state and your country.

As a Guard Soldier, you can expect your primary area of operation to be your home state, following the leadership of your state adjutant general and governor. This may include community efforts, responding to wildfires or floods. Or, it may include serving overseas, training foreign forces.

You will also be prepared to mobilize when directed by the president. This may include overseas service or domestic, such as serving along the U.S.-Mexico border.

So, what does the National Guard do? Whatever is needed, wherever it is needed.

Eligibility Requirements

Am I eligible to join the National Guard?

Most people between the ages of 17 and 35 are eligible to join the National Guard. However, we do have strict guidelines. Read on to see if you meet the minimum requirements, as well as the physical, education and aptitude requirements for Guard service.

Minimum Requirements

To qualify for enlistment into the National Guard, you need to:

- Be between the ages of 17 and 35* (unless you have prior U.S. military service, certain linguistic skills or a specialized professional skill, such as a chaplain, lawyer or certain medical specialties)
- Be a U.S. citizen or a legal permanent resident alien
- Meet necessary medical requirements and moral requirements.

Physical Fitness Requirements

Guard Soldiers need to be in excellent condition, and fall within certain ranges of height and weight, to fulfill the physical demands of military service.

Frequently Asked Questions

Can the Guard help with college?

We can pay up to 100% of your tuition.

In most states, the Guard can cover up to 100% of college tuition.

- **Montgomery G.I. Bill:** You may also qualify for an additional \$333 each month for expenses with the Montgomery G.I. Bill \$333 mailed directly to you every month, to spend on books, housing or anything you want.
- **Army National Guard Kicker:** For qualified Soldiers, an additional \$350 per month payment for living expenses.
- **Scholarships:** There are also Guard scholarships to help pay for school. And we can even help students earn their GED with our GED Plus program.
- **Patriot Academy:** For students who have dropped out within 10 credit hours of graduating, they may be eligible for a second chance to earn their diploma through the Guard's Patriot Academy.

You can serve while you're in school.

With a commitment of only one weekend a month plus two weeks of training in the summer, you will be earning a degree, earning Guard pay and experience, and taking a huge bite out of college costs.

Guard Soldiers are often better students.

Many young people actually do better in college after they've been through Guard training and gained additional discipline and maturity. This translates into better time-management skills, better grades and better opportunities after graduation—both in the Guard and in civilian life.

How will joining the Guard help me get a job?

The Guard teaches valuable job skills.

With several career fields and over 150 job specialties to choose from, you will have no trouble finding a job specialty that fits their passion. And we don't just give jobs—we you them to learn skills like leadership, team building and self-discipline that will serve you in any career.

You can work and serve in the Guard at the same time.

With the Guard's typical schedule of one weekend a month plus two weeks of training in the summer, Soldiers can easily maintain a civilian job while you serve. That means you can use your Guard training to land a good civilian job and bring home a second paycheck for part-time Guard service.

The Guard gives Soldiers an opportunity to network and earn benefits.

You will be serving with other Soldiers in related career fields in their own community and state. And you'll be eligible for benefits like health and life insurance, discount shopping privileges on base, VA home loans and much more.

How do I know if I am ready?

We will equip every Soldier physically and mentally.

You will be in the best physical shape and be equipped to tackle even the toughest challenges. By attending the Guard's RSP program, you'll have a good idea what to expect at Basic Training.

Basic Training is a 10-week course of intense physical and mental training, during which recruits develop essential Soldier skills, discipline and values. And many students actually do much better in school after completing their training. You'll see the skills and priorities they learn—like discipline and motivation—help them develop as individuals, team players and strong leaders.

What about my safety?

The Guard trains Soldiers to take care of themselves.

Guard Soldiers train alongside active duty troops. They learn the same combat skills, and use the same weapons and techniques. In other words, every Soldier is physically and mentally prepared for the challenge. And as their skills develop, they can qualify for specialized schools. From challenges like Airborne or Ranger school to language, leadership and management courses, the Guard will help you develop strength, character and self-reliance.

Most Guard training and deployments occur near home.

Most weekend training takes place with a unit close to the Soldier's home. And while Guard troops can be called up to serve overseas, they're more often mobilized to assist during domestic emergencies or natural disasters in or near the Soldier's home state.

I want to move into the work force.

The Guard offers job training in over 150 occupations and 11 career fields that will train students for careers in technology, healthcare, aviation, engineering, communications and many more of today's hottest fields. Our job skills can prepare a student for a lifetime of success.