



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **ARMY GUARD AND RESERVE RESTRUCTURING PLANNED**

Secretary of Defense Les Aspin announced today a major restructuring of the Army National Guard and Army Reserve. The restructuring is unprecedented both in its scope and in the extensive collaboration by the senior leaders of the active Army, Army National Guard and Army Reserve, and the leadership of supporting organizations.

The restructuring ensures that the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve are well structured to carry out the national military strategy in the post-Cold War world. Further, it will ensure that the Army National Guard retains robust capabilities to meet the requirements of state governors for domestic support missions such as natural disaster relief.

The plan will also enhance the Army's ability to execute the post-Cold War national military strategy, as outlined in the Bottom-Up Review. That strategy encompasses both new dangers and new opportunities in the post-Cold War world. The Bottom-Up Review has led to a force structure capable of winning two nearly simultaneous regional conflicts. The strategy puts greater emphasis on "power projection" -- deploying forces from the United States to wherever they are needed -- than on "forward presence" -- stationing Army units abroad. It also places increased reliance on the Army National Guard and the Army Reserve to achieve national military objectives.

There are three key parts to the plan:

First, overall reductions. By FY99, the Army National Guard will reach a level of 367,000 and the Army Reserve will reach a level of 208,000. The endstrengths at the end of FY93 were: Army National Guard 422,700 and Army Reserve 279,600.

Second, the Army National Guard will be focused on a wartime combat mission and a peacetime domestic emergency mission. Therefore, some force structure currently in the Army Reserve will be transferred to the Army Guard. The kinds of units the Guard will gain include artillery, aviation, mechanized infantry, armor and special force units.

Third, the Army Reserve will be focused on providing combat service support mission during wartime. Therefore, some force structure currently in the Army Guard will be transferred to the Army Reserve. The kinds of units the Army Reserve will gain include medical, signal, military police and transportation units.

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The restructuring will be implemented in ways to protect people and enhance readiness:

- Where similar units exist in both components, the new streamlining mission rules will determine whether the unit is retained in the Army Guard or the Army Reserve.
- The Department of Defense will aggressively apply transition benefits to take care of people who leave the reserves during the drawdown.

The plan will retain traditional strengths within the National Guard and the Reserve while minimizing the turbulence and costs associated with realignment. In addition, the plan will preserve a broad geographic distribution of National Guard and Reserve units.

To make this plan a success, more attention will be given to Guard and Reserve readiness. Priority for resources will be directed toward early deploying support units and the 15 enhanced readiness Army National Guard brigades.

The 15 enhanced readiness brigades will be associated with active Army units for training and will be well resourced with people and equipment. The brigades will be able to reinforce active Army combat units in a crisis and can be ready to begin deployment in 90 days.

The early deploying support units will be organized into packages providing combat support and combat service support. The earliest deploying packages will be resourced with people and equipment at the highest level of readiness, so they can mobilize and deploy quickly enough to support our response to major regional contingencies.

Other Army Guard combat forces, maintained at lower readiness, are needed as strategic insurance for extended crises and peace operations, as a deterrent hedge against a resurgent global threat, and for domestic missions.

The plan is a major step forward in the continuing and successful effort to strengthen the role and readiness of National Guard and Reserve forces in America's power projection Army. It represents the culmination of a two-year process by the Army leadership to define the future roles for a power projection force. Other ongoing initiatives include the reorganization of major commands; Bold Shift to improve training, leader proficiency and unit readiness; specific planning and training associations between active component and reserve component units; cascading of equipment from deactivating active Army units; and the widespread use of simulations to support reserve component training.

In the next few months, the Army Staff, in continuing collaboration with the Army National Guard and Army Reserve will work out the details within their normal planning and programming cycle. Detailed unit level information will be available once this is complete.

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