

# Vigilant Guard 2015 Fact Sheet



## Dual Status Command

### WHAT IT IS

A dual-status commander (DSC) is an officer of the Army (ARNG) or Air National Guard (ANG) or a commissioned officer of the Regular Army or Regular Air Force (who has completed specialized training and certification and are jointly managed by the Commander, U.S. Northern Command, and the Chief, National Guard Bureau) who may, by law, serve in two statuses (Federal and State) simultaneously.

### WHY IT'S IMPORTANT

The President and the Governor of the State must both agree to the establishment of a dual status commander in the event of an emergency requiring the need to utilize multi-component personnel.

### CAPABILITIES

In State status, the DSC is a member of the State chain of command, subject to the orders of the governor and Adjutant General of the DSC's State (exercises command of assigned State NG forces). In Federal status, the DSC is a member of the Federal chain of command, subject to the orders of the President, the Secretary of Defense, and the supported Combatant Commander (Commander, U.S. Northern Command when in the 48 contiguous States, Alaska, D.C., and the territories of Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands) or (Commander, U.S. Pacific Command when in Hawaii and the territory of Guam) and exercises command of assigned Federal military forces.

### AUTHORIZATION

DSC appointment can be terminated by the Secretary of Defense or the Governor at any time. The National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), signed in December 2011, facilitated the use of DSC to provide unity of effort between state and federal forces in achieving common objectives in a disaster response or in securing a national event.

### NATIONAL DISASTERS AND SPECIAL EVENTS

In the event of a multi-state disaster or national event requiring a DSC, separate DSCs would be appointed to command in each of the affected states due to state law prohibitions. Consistent with current laws and procedures, the Governor of a State does not use the DSC to request DoD forces or equipment.

