

North Carolina National Guard White Paper

Mobilization to Dwell

Overview

This white paper discusses Soldier views on mobilization frequency. The paper outlines the current model, proposed models, and Soldier opinion determined by a North Carolina National Guard (NCNG) survey.

Background

Department of Defense (DoD) policy on Reserve Component (RC) standards of usage recommends a 6 year Army Forces Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle with a mobilization to dwell ratio of 1 to 5 (1:5).¹ A ratio of 1:5 consists of 12 months (1 period) mobilized and 60 months (5 periods) not mobilized. AR 525-29 dated 14 March 2011, establishes the ARFORGEN Model, a predictive readiness model. For steady state rotations, the RC mobilization to dwell ratio is 1:5 or more simply put “RC can be mobilized for 12 months (1 period), deploy for 9 of the 12 months, and spend 60 months (5 periods) not mobilized.”² For surge rotations, now commonly referred to as ARFORGEN Adaptive Model, the RC ratio is 1:4 or “RC units can be mobilized for 12 months (1 period) and spend 48 months (4 periods) not mobilized.”^{3,4} The current guidance established by the National Guard Bureau for alignment of forces and readiness progression is based off the ARFORGEN surge rotation of 1:4 not the steady state rotation of 1:5.⁵ The Secretary of Defense (SECDEF) has the authority to approve “individual or unit mobilization-to-dwell ratio less than 1 to 4 (1:4)”.⁶ The Chief, National Guard Bureau (CNGB) stated, “We (Council of Governors and the Adjutants Generals) commit the National Guard to more frequent rotational use...when required to meet the needs of any national emergency.”⁷ Regardless of the mobilization to dwell ratio, the National Guard has filled every request for troops at home and overseas with ready forces since 9/11.⁸

Mobilization to Dwell Survey

The NCNG mobilization to dwell survey received 1069 responses representing approximately 13% of the North Carolina Army National Guard (NCARNG). Of the participants, 67% or 716 members had been on one (1) deployment, 235 on two (2) deployments, 86 on three (3) deployments, and 32 on four (4) or more deployments. Additional survey demographic data showing number of years with current employer and total years of service is listed in Table 2 and Table 3 respectively.

¹ Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) number 1235.12, originally dated on 4 February 2010 and updated on 4 April 2012, Paragraph 4.b(2)

² Army Regulation (AR) 525-29, dated 14 March 2011, Paragraph 1-7.e(1)(b)

³ Ibid

⁴ Army National Guard Readiness Plan, dated October 2014, Paragraph 2.a

⁵ Ibid

⁶ Department of Defense Instruction (DODI) number 1235.12, originally dated on 4 February 2010 and updated on 4 April 2012, Paragraph 5.a(2)

⁷ National Guard Bureau, “Authorities and Assumptions Related to Rotational Use of the National Guard,” (Washing, DC: NGB, Memorandum from GEN Grass to the Chief of Staff of the Army, 31 May 2013).

⁸ National Guard Bureau, 2015 National Guard Bureau Posture Statement: Trusted at Home and Proven Abroad (Washington, DC: NGB, 2015), 21.

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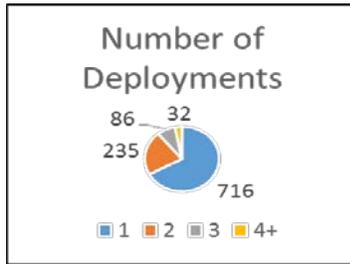


Table 1

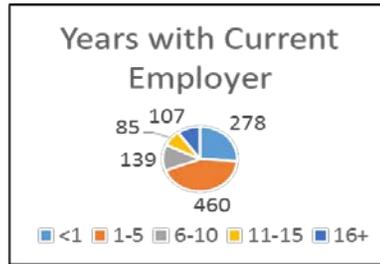


Table 2

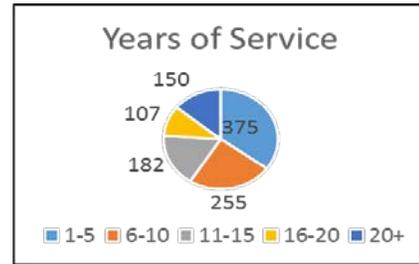


Table 3

Further analysis of the survey shows 82% of NCARNG Soldiers supports the current 1:4 mobilization to dwell ratio and 86% feel their family members support the 1:4 ratio (Table 4). Furthermore, 63% of NCARNG Soldiers support a 4 year cycle with a 1:3 (1 year mobilized: 3 years dwell) (Table 5). Additionally, 76% of NCARNG Soldiers believe their employers would also support the 1:3 ratio (Table 5).

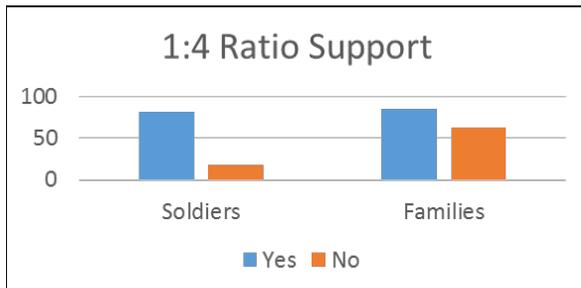


Table 4

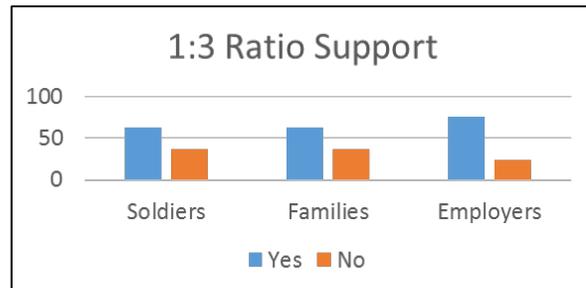


Table 5

Conclusion

NCARNG Soldiers are willing and capable of mobilizing as often as required to support contingency operations. For predictable and planned requirements, in line with a model such as the Sustained Readiness Model, NCARNG Soldiers responses indicate they are supportive of a mobilization to dwell ratio of as little as 1:3 and believe their families and employers would also be supportive.

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