

The New Guard and Reserve

Since the advent of the global war on terror, the roles and responsibilities of the National Guard and reserve components of the nation's armed forces have changed dramatically. No longer just "a force in reserve," today's guard and reserve are a critical and integrated component in U.S. military missions around the globe. The transition of the reserves to an operational force affects every aspect of force management—recruiting and retention, training, equipping, mobilization, and compensation. As the citizen-soldiers who volunteer for reserve duty face increasing burdens of service, it is essential to develop sound policies and principles for managing and supporting this vital part of the total force.

In *The New Guard and Reserve*, a diverse group of contributors presents research and analysis on the evolving operational role for the reserve components—the first such research conducted in this context. Topics addressed in this volume include the increased use of the reserves and subsequent stress on the force; the effect of longer and more frequent mobilization on reserve recruiting and retention; the impact of activation—on finances, families, and employers; and potential changes to compensation and benefits. Collectively, this broad set of perspectives and analyses offers a strong foundation for developing policies and practices to more effectively manage, utilize, and sustain the reserves today, and into the future.

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