



Air Guard hopes to recruit separated and retired Airmen

With the help of precision recruiting, the Air National Guard could benefit from yesterday's force management announcement by the U.S. Air Force, Guard officials said.

"Commanders will always be looking for trained, ready and willing Airmen," said Air Force Col. Mary Salcido, the director of Air Guard Recruiting and Retention.

Fewer Airmen than anticipated applied for voluntary programs offered under Phase One of the force management program initiated in November 2009, DoD news reports said. So the Air Force is expanding its program to encourage more Airmen to apply for separation or retirement by Sept. 1 or earlier.

The Air Guard's authorized end strength is 106,700, and it still needs to fill officer vacancies and certain career fields, such as medical, cyber and battlefield Airmen.

On the officer side, the Air Force plans to lower the reserve obligation for Palace Chase transfers from a three-year commitment ratio to one year for each remaining year of active duty service commitment. Palace Chase transfers are also available for enlisted personnel with a one-to-one rather than a two-to-one-year commitment.

In-service recruiters at Air Force bases around the country will be the key to reaching these Airmen, Salcido said. The Guard currently has about 12 of these recruiters available.

National Guard looks for 'middle ground' in the future

The National Guard is optimistic about finding "middle ground" despite the challenges it faces over the next several years, the chief of the National Guard Bureau said.

"The National Guard is optimistic about finding the middle ground that preserves what we have all worked so hard to build over the past nine years, serves our



DoD photo by Spc. Jesse Gross, U.S. Army

U.S. Army Capt. Andrew Lewis (left), commander of Bravo Company, 2nd Battalion, 14th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division, gives a water filter to a local civilian near Forward Operating Base Suj, Iraq. The distribution effort was a joint mission with U.S. soldiers, Iraqi Federal Police and local government leaders.

citizens well both home and abroad, and recognizes and conforms to the fiscal challenges that are the reality of a close future," said Air Force Gen. Craig R. McKinley told attendees at the FORSCOM Command Readiness Program at Camp Joseph T. Robinson in North Little Rock, Ark.

McKinley also outlined the three strategic priorities for the National Guard. First, he said the Guard must maintain its role as a full-spectrum force.

"From catastrophic events at home to deployments abroad, the Guard and Reserve must seamlessly integrate with the broader force," he said.

Second, he said the Guard must strive to maintain the significant investment in readiness made over the last eight years.

McKinley said Guard units must be trained, equipped and ready for semi-routine deployments.

"This is going to be a particular challenge," he said. "We are the best-trained, best-equipped Guard in history, but after all modern wars, we have put the Guard back on the shelf ... What will we do this

time?"

McKinley said budgets are becoming challenging, both as supplemental appropriations dry up and a challenging economic environment persists.

"The Army Guard is the best equipped in history, but will face challenges particularly with respect to Humvees and trucks in the near future," he said. "We are going to have to be careful stewards."

He added that the Guard will have to take its fair share of cuts in future years' budgets.

McKinley also said the Guard must remain accessible.

"We must institutionalize the processes — funding, training and equipping — that will sustain what I consider an already operational reserve component," he said. "We can't afford to go back to a strategic reserve."

Finally, McKinley said we must ensure the Guard is prepared to carry out its homeland defense and disaster response mission.

"Paramount to the Guard's existence is



its constitutionally-based relationship to the governors and the citizens of its states," he said. "Fortunately, we have always been able to do both the state and federal missions.

"I think it is part of my job from time to time to point out that we do in fact serve two masters, and primarily the governors of the 50 states, three territories and the District of Columbia."

McCarthy: Guard, Reserve want operational status

Today's reserve component members do not want to go back to the old "one-weekend-a-month, two-weeks-during-the-year" paradigm, the assistant secretary of defense for Reserve Affairs told the House Armed Services Committee.

"Everyone in the reserve component today makes a conscious choice to serve," said Dennis McCarthy. "They have en-

listed and re-enlisted with the full understanding that it means service in combat." One of President Obama's key goals is to sustain an all-volunteer force. However, the services have learned since 9/11 that the all-volunteer force can never be large enough to fight a sustained conflict without reinforcements.

McCarthy said about 750,000 members of the reserve component have been mobilized in support of current operations. The daily average has been about 140,000. "We cannot sustain this effort without the support of our families and employers," he said.

As operations draw down, the reserve components must be used on a rotational basis. A "significant investment" has been made in the reserve components ... "and it makes good sense from an economic standpoint to get a return on that investment," he said.

Army Maj. Gen. Raymond Carpenter,

the acting director of the Army National Guard, agreed with McCarthy's description of today's reserve components.

"The men and women who serve in the Army National Guard today do so with the full understanding that they are likely to be deployed overseas," he said. "Some of them join for that very reason."

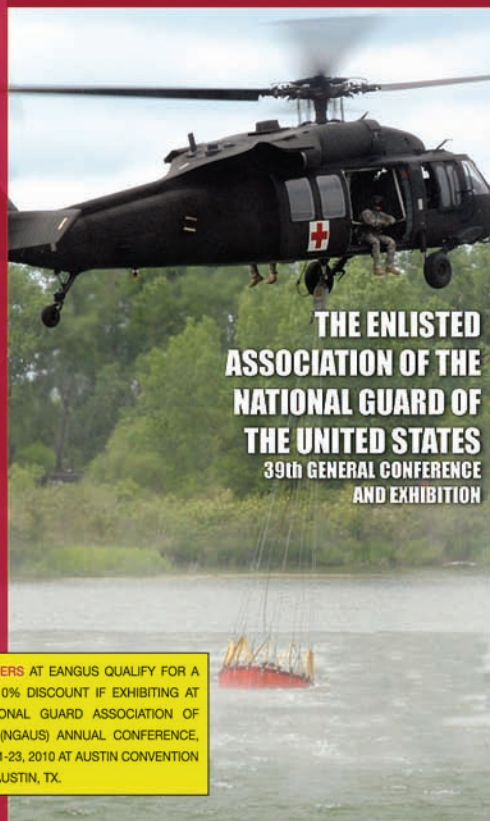
Air Force Lt. Gen. Harry M. "Bud" Wyatt III, the director of the Air National Guard, said his component "proves day in and day out the availability and accessibility of the Guard, and we are there for our communities."

In the past year, Air Guard members have helped to battle floods in North Dakota, ice storms in Kentucky and the tsunami in American Samoa.

"These are just a few examples of how the ANG provides exceptional expertise, experience and capabilities to mitigate disasters and their consequences," Wyatt said.



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