



## NATIONAL GUARD BUREAU

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Chief, National Guard Bureau

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The National Guard has just experienced the most historic changes it has seen in generations. In January 2008, the National Defense Authorization Act made the National Guard Bureau a joint activity of the Department of Defense. This new standing created a direct relationship to the Secretary of Defense through the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; giving the National Guard Bureau a better position from which to represent the issues and concerns of the Citizen Soldiers and Airmen.

Never before has the National Guard been more reliable, ready or essential to our nation's governors and our President. Citizen Soldiers and Airmen are fighting side by side with the active components every day in the air and on the ground in Iraq and Afghanistan. We are deployed around the world in more than 37 countries, supporting the ongoing fight against terrorism.

Here at home, the National Guard continues to stay busy. This past year, governors called out their National Guard troops almost every day to respond to a variety of natural disasters: blizzards, wildfires, floods, hurricanes and tornadoes.

We must always remember the tremendous debt we owe to the families and employers of our National Guard Soldiers and Airmen. Their sacrifices do not go unnoticed.

This year, we will continue to work together and capitalize on the momentum gained over the last year. As the new Chief of the National Guard Bureau, I look forward to more challenges and opportunities for our National Guard, our Citizen Soldiers and Airmen, and their families and employers.

CRAIG R. MCKINLEY  
General, USAF  
Chief, National Guard Bureau