Who is the Air National Guard?
The ANG, like the RegAF, is composed of dedicated, professional men and women, Airmen sworn to defend their country. But, unlike the RegAF, 69,867 of the ANG’s 106,700 Airmen, or 65%, have full-time jobs in their local communities. These part-time professional Airmen, or “Traditionals,” have civilian careers but spend weekends and evenings training and practicing the Air Force specialties, including nearly every job in the RegAF – medical, civil engineers, security forces, chaplains, lawyers, transportation specialists, logistics, maintenance, intelligence, space operations, cyberspace defense, administration, and aviation.

Because a majority of ANG Airmen are part-time professionals, the ANG differs somewhat from the RegAF. First, the ANG “family” includes not only the Airmen and their families, but the Airmen’s civilian employers. Therefore, when the ANG considers the impact of deployment policies or transformation plans on the Airmen and their families, we must also consider the impact upon their civilian employers. Therefore, when the ANG considers the impact of deployment policies or transformation plans on the Airmen and their families, we must also consider the impact upon their civilian employers. Second, ANG Airmen are recruited from and tied to their local communities, providing advantages in terms of community support for the Air Force but challenges for changing missions, for the ANG cannot simply move people around the country. Finally, because Traditional Guard members are only paid when on active duty for training or deployments, they are a major element of the ANG’s cost effectiveness.

For information about family support programs in your area, please logon to the GuardFamily.org website. You may browse the site as a guest or create a logon account to obtain in-depth information about services and programs that support Air National Guard families.

Features and Information you’ll find include:
- A search-by-state function
- Local information based on your hometown
- Exceptional Family Member Program
- Relocation Assistance Program
- Child and Youth Symposium -- National event that focuses on children and young adults
- Community Outreach Initiatives
- Community Partners such as the American Legion, etc.
- Family Readiness
- And many other topics

Military One Source is a “one-stop shopping” resource for any and all military questions you may have. Please go to MilitaryOneSource.com or call 1-800-342-9647. Service representatives are available 7 days a week, 24 hours a day.
What is the Air National Guard?
Simply put, the Air National Guard (ANG) is both a reserve component of the US Air Force and the air force component of the National Guard. But the full answer is much more complex.

As a reserve component of the US Air Force, the ANG, together with its sister air reserve component, the Air Force Reserve, is charged under Title 10, US Code, “to provide trained units and qualified persons available for active duty in the armed forces, in time of war or national emergency, and at such other times as the national security may require, to fill the needs of the armed forces whenever more units and persons are needed than are in the regular components.”

The ANG, when called to federal service, integrates seamlessly into the Total Air Force and is subject to the same laws and command structure as the Regular Air Force (RegAF). When in federal service, often called “Title 10 service,” the ANG serves under the President of the United States as its Commander in Chief.

As the air force component of the National Guard, the ANG serves the governors of the 54 states and territories. Under state laws, the ANG is under the individual governors and is charged with protecting life and property.

Guarding America
Throughout most of our history, Americans have relied on citizen-soldiers of the militia to defend us from foreign enemies and respond to domestic threats. Since the earliest days of flight, members of the National Guard have provided support through aviation to Americans in need. ANG aircraft and personnel are most often the first military responding to man-made or natural disasters.

Otis Air National Guard Base F-15s were the first to respond to the threat of terrorist-controlled aircraft on 9/11. Today, approximately 16,000 Air Guard members are monitoring radar scopes, sitting aircraft alert, and maintaining systems defending US airspace.

When Hurricanes Katrina and Rita struck the US Gulf Coast, the ANG responded with the largest and most rapid humanitarian airlift in US history. This year already, the ANG has been called to aid Americans threatened by tornadoes, flooding, hurricanes, and wildfires, providing medical support, communications, security, and search & rescue.

This is an example from August 2008 of ANG domestic operations:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Mission</th>
<th>Personnel</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Key Infrastructure Protection</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Law Enforcement Assistance</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counter Drug Operations</td>
<td>762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Airborne Firefighting</td>
<td>181</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assisting US Border Patrol</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Local Response Exercises</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tropical Storm/Hurricane Operations</td>
<td>829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Convention Support</td>
<td>322</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Defending Freedom
The ANG is an integral and vital part of US global security operations. Currently, 7,343 men and women of the ANG serve in every theater of operation, on every continent, including Antarctica. Air Guard members perform more than just flight operation, they also provide many other critical skills in areas such as medical, security forces, finance, transportation, services, law, chaplaincy, etc.

The ANG provides about 1/3 of the USAF Total Force combat and combat support capabilities, including fighter aircraft, search & rescue, reconnaissance, aerial refueling, and transportation.

“The ANG provides about 1/3 of the USAF Total Force combat and combat support capabilities.”