

District of Columbia National Guard

“The Capital Guardians”



DC National Guard ... *Like no other National Guard Unit!*

The DC National Guard (DCNG), established in 1802, is unique among Guard units because it is not within a state or territory where the governor is the Commander-in-Chief. Because the DCNG is District-based, it is led by a two-star Commanding General (Adjutant General equivalent) and is the only National Guard organization activated by the President of the United States for natural and civil emergencies. Like all other National Guard units, however, the DCNG supports both our national security and local community objectives.

DC National Guard's Unique Mission - Protecting Our Nation's Capital and Serving Our Nation's Leadership

Joint Force Headquarters: The DCNG, because of its role as “Capital Guardians,” is often ‘behind the scenes’ during many of the key events that occur in our nation’s capital. Our JFHQ consists of military and civilian members from the DC Army and Air National Guard units, and is located in the Armory in Washington DC near RFK Stadium. Our Youth Challenge Program, currently located in Maryland, and Youth Leader’s Camp are administered by JFHQ.

DC Army National Guard: The DC Army National Guard is composed of the 74th Troop Command, the 260th Regiment Regional Training Institute (Officer Candidate School), the 121st Medical Co. (Air Ambulance), the 1-224th Security and Support Detachment, the 257th Army Band, the Mobilization Augmentation Command (MAC), Detachment 3 Health and Dental Clinic, Detachment 4 Operational Support Airlift Command, and the Recruiting and Retention Command. The 33rd Weapons of Mass Destruction Civil Support Team, a joint Army and Air unit, is able to deploy rapidly to any incident in the District of Columbia, or local area, and assist local first-responders in determining the nature of an attack, provide medical and technical advice, and pave the way for the identification and arrival of follow-on state and federal military response assets.

DC Air National Guard: The 113th Wing's primary mission is training of air combat and operational airlift crews for national defense. Because the District of Columbia lacks an installation with a runway, all of the DC Air Guard units, except for those elements supporting JFHQ, are located at Andrews Air Force Base, MD, the home of DC Air Guard units since 1946. Specifically, the 113th Wing provides a 24/7 ready response force of F-16 fighters for the defense of the National Capital Region through its Air Sovereignty Alert mission. The unit was not designated as an Air Sovereignty Alert force for the NCR until September 11, 2001, however. On that day, the 113th Wing fighters were among the first to be overhead the Nation’s Capital, and have been since. The wing’s 201st Airlift Squadron, also based at Andrews AFB, has a unique mission within the Air National Guard. With its C-38 Astra and C-40 Boeing 737 aircraft, the unit’s mission is to fly members of Congress, high-ranking civilian leaders and Defense Department officials around the globe. Members of Congress frequently fly with the 201st as do other leaders in Washington. Other DC ANG units include the 121st Weather Flight, Headquarters, Detachment 1, and Joint Force Headquarters.

DC National Guard Accomplishments

- Most recently, the DC National Guard, augmented by 7,000 Guardsmen from 30 states and territories, was the lead military organization in providing support to the Secret Service during the 56th Presidential Inauguration. Support included crowd control, medical support, logistics support, command and control, and ceremonial marchers in the inaugural parade.
- The 113th wing will deploy F-16s and personnel to Southwest Asia from January to April 2009.
- The 275th Military Police Company deployed to Iraq from May 2007 to June 2008
- The 547th Transportation Company deployed to Iraq from September 2006 to October 2007
- The 113th Wing deployed F-16s and personnel to Iraq from August to November 2006.
- The DCNG supported recovery operations after Hurricane Katrina
- The 113th Wing deployed personnel in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and major combat operations in 2003.
- F16s from the 113th Wing were the first low-altitude fighters airborne on 9/11. The wing's Alert Detachment has been scrambled over 2,000 times since 9-11 due to incursions in the NCR's airspace. Today they stand, proven, vigilant, and ready to defend the Capital against air attacks.
- DC Air National Guard personnel were called to active duty in the Korean War, the 1961 Berlin crisis, Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

DC National Guard's Community Outreach

The DCNG is a dedicated community partner with the District of Columbia and its residents:

- DCNG Youth Leader's Camp: this 2-week residential leadership development program provides an opportunity for boys and girls ages 12 to 15 from DC, VA, and MD to learn good sportsmanship and citizenship. Since 1968, over 6,000 students have participated in this program.
- Capital Guardian Youth Challenge program: the DCNG began this program in 2007 to provide a "second chance" opportunity for high school dropouts to obtain a GED and life skills. Young adults in this program gain skills and habits that allow them to be productive members of the community.
- "Pilot for a Day" program: Each year the DC allows children with serious and life threatening diseases to interact with a variety of units and personnel in the DC Air National Guard and the chance to experience many exciting aspects of the W113th Wing's missions.
- The DCNG annually participates in the "Clean the River Day."
- The DCNG is an integral part of drug prevention and supports "National Night Out" each year.

Where DC National Guardsmen Live

DC Army National Guard Member Residences in 2008:

- 256 (20% DC)
- 369 (28% VA)
- 614 (47% MD)

DC Air National Guard Member Residences in 2008:

- 47 (4% DC)
- 320 (28% VA)
- 674 (58% MD)