

Concurrent & Proportional Fielding of Equipment



NGAUS

Fiscal Year 2024 Requirements for the Army & Air National Guard



The Issue

The National Guard is an operational force that consistently deploys in support of overseas combat operations performing the same missions as the Active Component and provides domestic emergency response. Yet, it is not equipped in the same manner.

◀ An AH-64D Apache, assigned to the 1-151st Attack Reconnaissance Battalion South Carolina ARNG, flies in front of a wall of fire.

Background

The #1 priority for NGAUS in relation to Army and Air National Guard equipment is parity. National Guard units must receive equipment in a concurrent and proportional rate to their Active Component counterparts. This means that once new equipment and weapons platforms are procured by the Department of Defense, it must be fielded immediately and proportionally to the National Guard. The National Guard also performs the domestic operations missions, being the only military units able to respond to national emergencies. A majority of the equipment fielded to the Guard serves this dual purpose of this war fight and vital domestic responses to emergencies.

The National Guard is not simply a “reserve force,” it is an operational force that is the principal combat reserve of the Army and Air Force and consistently deploys in overseas combat missions alongside the Active Component. Concurrent and proportional fielding of equipment allows for both components to deploy together safely, efficiently, and lethally.

Overall, the National Defense Strategy demands a Total Force effort and National Guard servicemembers require the equipment to align towards great power competition with Russia and China. While there are examples of concurrent and proportional fielding to the National Guard, including the C-17, Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV) and F-35 programs, there is still a long way from it becoming the norm.

Recent examples of Army programs that have not adhered to this concept include fielding of the UH-60M Black Hawk helicopter and the MQ-1C Gray Eagle Extended Range (25M) unmanned aircraft to the Army National Guard. Examples of Air Force programs include fielding of the C-130J Super Hercules aircraft and the HH-60W Combat Rescue Helicopter to the Air National Guard.

Recommendation

Guard Designation



As the Army and Air Force acquire new equipment and weapons platforms, those systems must be fielded to Active Component and National Guard units concurrently and proportionally to ensure a fully interoperable and lethal Total Force.



▶ A F-35 Lightning II takes off.



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NGAUS Contact **Marcy Weldin**
Legislative Affairs Manager, Air and Army Programs
marcy.weldin@nga.us.org

