

U.S. ARMY RESERVE

THE HISTORY OF THE ARMY RESERVE

THE HERITAGE: 1756-1908

THE COLONIAL ERA

The Army Reserve of today can trace its roots as a "national" or federal Citizen-Soldier force back to the French and Indian War (1756-1763).

SPANISH-AMERICAN WAR (1898) AND THE PHILIPPINE INSURRECTION (1898-1902)

Operations during the Spanish-American War and Philippine Insurrection suffered from shortages of medical professionals and officers, leading to the establishment of a formal structure for federal volunteers during peacetime.

A MILITARY MANPOWER RESERVE: 1908 -1945

FOUNDING

The Army Reserve was founded on April 23, 1908, when Congress passed Senate Bill 1424 to authorize the Army to establish a reserve corps of medical officers. The Secretary of War ordered these officers to active duty during times of emergency. Composed of 160 medical professionals, this was the nation's first Federal Reserve.

WORLD WAR I (1917-1918)

The Army mobilized nearly 90,000 Reserve officers for World War I, one-third of whom were medical doctors.

1933-1939

A New Deal program, the Civilian Conservation Corps, placed young men in barracks and military style organizations to work in national forests and other outdoor projects. Over 30,000 Army Reserve officers served as commanders or staff officers at the 2,700 conservation corps camps.

WORLD WAR II (1941-1945)

During World War II (1941-1945), the Army mobilized twenty-six Army Reserve infantry divisions. Approximately a quarter of all Army officers who served were Army Reserve Soldiers, including over 100,000 Reserve Officers' Training Corps graduates. More than 200,000 Army Reserve Soldiers served in the war.

THE STRATEGIC RESERVE: 1946 -1990

POSTWAR

The threat posed by communist nations led to the establishment of a large peacetime military force for the first time. A more combat ready Army Reserve became a way to defray the cost of the larger force.

THE KOREAN WAR (1950-1953)

More than 240,000 Army Reserve Soldiers were called to active duty during the Korean Conflict.

While the Korean Conflict was still underway, Congress began making significant changes in the structure and role of the Army Reserve. These changes transformed what was then the Organized Reserve into the United States Army Reserve (USAR).

COLD WAR

The Army Reserve was mobilized twice during the Cold War; over 68,500 Army Reserve Soldiers for the Berlin Crisis (1961-1962) and nearly 6,000 for the Vietnam War during the period from 1968 to 1969.

THE OPERATIONAL RESERVE: 1990 - PRESENT

DESERT SHIELD/DESERT STORM (1990-1991)

The invasion of Kuwait by Iraq led to the call-up of approximately 84,000 Army Reserve Soldiers to provide combat support and combat service support in the Persian Gulf theater and site support to American forces elsewhere in the world.

GLOBAL WAR ON TERRORISM (2001-PRESENT)

Since 9/11 approximately 218,000 Army Reserve Soldiers have been activated in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). Today, approximately 200,000 Army Reserve Soldiers serve through the Army's five year, rotational force generation model.



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