



Torchbearer Special Report

Association of the United States Army . . . Voice for the Army – Support for the Soldier



Army National Guard Division and Brigade Combat Team Designations

The National Guard continues to transform across the full spectrum of operations. This conversion is a force enabler, improves our ability to recruit and retain Soldiers, and ensures we can respond rapidly and effectively in support of both state and federal missions, while preserving much of our rich history. This new modular force will enhance readiness, training, and equipping of the National Guard in a seamless teaming with the active Army. That's the right thing for the Guard, the Army, and America.

Lieutenant General H Steven Blum
Chief, National Guard Bureau
Pentagon, 7 November 2005

INTRODUCTION

Furthering the U.S. Army's transformation to a modular force, the Department of the Army announced on 5 October 2005 at the Annual Meeting of the Association of the United States Army (AUSA) the designations for the Army National Guard's modular Brigade Combat Teams (BCTs). The transformation began early in Fiscal Year (FY) 2005, but the recent announcement of designations established the names, heraldry and heritage of the Army National Guard units transitioning to BCTs. The transformation of Army National Guard units is scheduled to be completed by the end of FY 2008. With 73 percent of Army National Guard units affected by the transformation, this is the largest shift in Guard force structure since the end of World War II.

(For information on active component modular units, see Torchbearer Special Report "Active Component Division and Brigade Combat Team Stationing and Flagging Designations," August 2005.)

THE ARMY NATIONAL GUARD AS A MODULAR FORCE

The extensive restructuring plan, called Modular Force Conversion, is designed to create an agile, capabilities-based force to meet the needs of the significantly revised 2001 National Security Strategy and to strengthen the Army's capability to fight the war on terrorism. Prior to this transformation, the division was the centerpiece of the Army, ideally suited for major land campaigns against similarly organized forces. Although a powerful and capable force, the division is not the optimal structure for the threats of the 21st century. To meet these new

challenges and threats, the Army is transforming from a division-based force to a more flexible brigade-centric force.

Over the next three years, as part of the Army's modular conversion, the Army National Guard will restructure its organizations to create forces that are more stand-alone and alike ("modular") while enhancing their full-spectrum capabilities. Army National Guard Brigade Combat Teams will be structured and manned identically to those in the active Army and can be combined with other BCTs or elements of the joint force, facilitating integration, interoperability and compatibility among all components. The new modular organization provides a more flexible, more capable and more rapidly deployable force with the BCT as the centerpiece. The BCT is a stand-alone, self-sufficient and standardized tactical force of 3,400 to 4,000 Soldiers who are organized the way they fight. The number of Soldiers in a BCT depends on the brigade type (Infantry, Heavy or Stryker). Additionally, to facilitate command and control, division headquarters are transforming into modular units with about 1,000 Soldiers. These headquarters will be capable of functioning as a Joint Task Force (JTF) with augmentation and a Joint Force Land Component Command (JFLCC).

In the current plan, all eight Army National Guard divisional headquarters will convert to the new modular division design; all Army National Guard separate and divisional brigades will convert to 23 Infantry BCTs, 10 Heavy BCTs and one Stryker BCT (34 total); and a number of other formations will convert to various modular supporting units: six fires brigades, 10 combat support brigades (maneuver enhancement), 11 sustainment brigades, eight combat aviation brigades (from the former divisional aviation brigades), four aviation brigades, one aviation command and one aviation group.

Army National Guard Division and Brigade Combat Team Designations

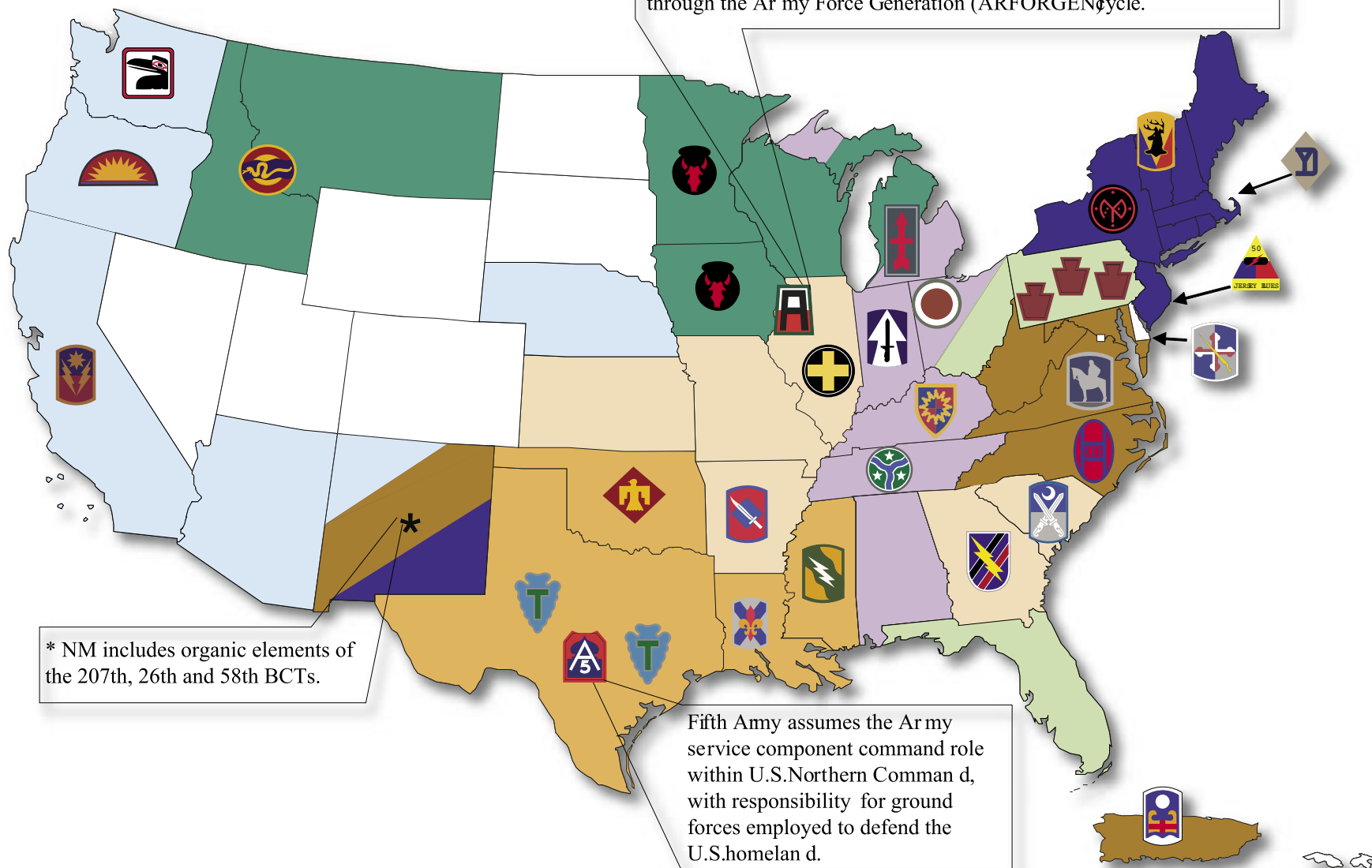
(As of 30 November 2005)



First Army transforms, subsuming elements of Fifth Army to become Training Readiness Mobilization Command (TRMCOM), relocates to Rock Island, Illinois; oversees training and readiness of Army National Guard formations; and mobilizes those formations, seeing them through the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) cycle.

Fifth Army assumes the Army service component command role within U.S. Northern Command, with responsibility for ground forces employed to defend the U.S. homeland.

* NM includes organic elements of the 207th, 26th and 58th BCTs.



- 40th Infantry Division, CA**
 - 40th Infantry BCT, CA (†)
 - 41st Infantry BCT, OR (†)
 - 29th Infantry BCT, HI, AZ (†)
 - 81st Armored BCT, WA, CA (‡)
 - 207th Infantry BCT, AK, AZ, CA, NM, GU, IN, NE (†)
- 34th Infantry Division, MN**
 - 1st BCT, 34th ID, MN (‡)
 - 2d BCT, 34th ID, IA, MN (†)
 - 32d Infantry BCT, MI (†)
 - 116th Cavalry BCT, ID, MT, OR (‡)
- 38th Infantry Division, IN**
 - 37th Infantry BCT, OH, MI (†)
 - 76th Infantry BCT, IN (†)
 - 149th Infantry BCT, KY, AL (†)
 - 278th Cavalry BCT, TN (‡)
- 35th Infantry Division, KS, MO, IL**
 - 33d Infantry BCT, IL (†)
 - 39th Infantry BCT, AR (†)
 - 48th Infantry BCT, GA (†)
 - 218th Armored BCT, SC, KS (‡)

- 42d Infantry Division, NY**
 - 27th Infantry BCT, NY (†)
 - 86th Infantry BCT, VT, CT, ME (†)
 - 50th Infantry BCT, NJ (†)
 - 26th Infantry BCT, MA, NM, RI (†)
- 28th Infantry Division, PA**
 - 2d BCT, 28th ID, PA, OH (‡)
 - 55th BCT, 28th ID, PA (‡)
 - 56th BCT, 28th ID, PA (§)
 - 53d Infantry BCT, FL (†)
- 29th Infantry Division, VA**
 - 116th Infantry BCT, VA (†)
 - 58th Infantry BCT, MD, NM (†)
 - 30th Armored BCT, NC, WV (‡)
 - 92d Infantry BCT, PR (†)
- 36th Infantry Division, TX**
 - 56th BCT, 36th ID, TX (†)
 - 72d BCT, 36th ID, TX (†)
 - 45th Infantry BCT, OK (†)
 - 256th Infantry BCT, LA (‡)
 - 155th Armored BCT, MS (‡)

Key:
 † - Infantry Design
 ‡ - Heavy Design
 § - Stryker Design

Note: This depicts the Training Readiness Oversight alignment based upon geographic dispersion and training sites.

The Army National Guard will accelerate its conversion to modular force designs, as part of the overall Army transformation plan, with completion moved from FY 2010 to the end of FY 2008. The plan to accelerate the conversion of Army National Guard forces was officially approved as a part of the Army Campaign Plan. Although the Army National Guard will be initially lacking key enablers, e.g., the Joint Network Node (JNN), accelerated modular conversion enhances recruiting and retention efforts (recruit and train one time), facilitates Soldier reclassification management and reduces turbulence for redeploying Soldiers. Additionally, acceleration means that states and territories can apply the added capabilities of modular forces earlier in support of both federal and state missions.

FLAGGING DESIGNATIONS

A major consideration throughout the transformation has been the desire to retain the lineage and honors of historic Army National Guard regiments and battalions. In many cases, states, the National Guard Bureau (NGB) and the U.S. Army Center of Military History (CMH) jointly decided to convert historic regiments to a new branch to keep their lineage intact.

Two of the Guard's Heavy BCTs—the 116th in Idaho and the 278th in Tennessee—will be given the traditional designation “Cavalry” because these units have long histories of service as cavalry organizations. Their structure, however, will be identical to that of Heavy BCTs designated as “Armored.” The Guard's Stryker BCT will be the 56th Brigade, 28th Infantry Division out of Pennsylvania.

Several BCTs will revert to traditional patches. Because many current divisional brigades in the Guard trace their lineages back to former divisions or other separate units, and because modular BCTs are intended to function as separate entities, several states decided to designate their BCTs as separate, non-divisional units. Nine such BCTs that were formerly divisional brigades will remove their current division patches and put on historic patches from their past. As a result, Soldiers will once again be wearing the patches of some of the Guard's most storied units, such as the 26th Infantry Division (now 26th Infantry BCT in Massachusetts), the 37th Infantry Division (now 37th Infantry BCT in Ohio) and the 33d Infantry Division (now 33d Infantry BCT in Illinois). Additionally, one BCT—Alaska's 207th Infantry BCT—will have a new patch designed because the current organization, the 207th Infantry Group, does not have a patch of its own. In all, 26 of the Guard's BCTs will carry separate brigade designations.

Seven Army National Guard BCTs will continue wearing their division patches, even though the new flexible modular structure severs the more fixed organic command and control relationship that existed previously between a division headquarters and its subordinate brigades. The states involved decided that the

divisional heritage of these brigades should be preserved by wearing the division patches.

In addition to the BCTs, the Guard will reorganize its eight existing division headquarters into modular command and control elements that will retain their current designations, patches and unit histories. In wartime, these modular division headquarters will be capable of exercising command and control of a variable number of BCTs, support brigades and other support units, determined according to the mission, and will be capable of functioning as JFLCC or JTF headquarters. Significantly, the subordinate elements commanded by these Guard divisions upon deployment are as likely to be active and U.S. Army Reserve units as Army National Guard units. In peacetime, each division headquarters will have training and readiness oversight responsibilities for four or five Guard BCTs.

The states have been full partners in determining the designations of their Guard units, working in collaboration with the NGB and the CMH. Throughout the process, every effort has been made to preserve the exceptional legacy represented by the Army National Guard's historic units, while simultaneously preparing the Guard for its 21st century mission.

IMPLICATIONS FOR THE SOLDIER AND THE GUARD

BCTs are more strategically responsive across the entire range of military operations required by the 21st century security environment. Furthermore, because of standardization, a Heavy brigade in one state will be exactly the same as any Heavy brigade in another state or in the active Army, thus aiding in training, planning, logistics and maintenance for operational readiness. The Infantry, Heavy and Stryker types of BCTs are a bridge to the future—the Future Combat Systems-equipped BCT.

The modular force also factors into the Army Force Generation (ARFORGEN) Model, which will provide more predictable deployment rotations. As interchangeable parts, BCTs of different divisions can be employed together, reducing stress on the infrastructure and enhancing the readiness, training and preparation processes while fostering more seamless teaming with the active Army. This enables ARFORGEN to place Guard BCTs on a standard six-year cycle of deploy-reset/train-ready-available (compared to a three-year cycle for active BCTs).

The modular force will also provide the Army National Guard more capabilities for carrying out its state missions. The re-equipping of battalions as BCTs should enhance the Guard's ability to assist the states, territories and District of Columbia, especially in the areas of transportation, communication and security. The command and control (C2) elements of BCTs will be particularly valuable in accomplishing these three missions. BCTs also are complementary to the Joint Force Headquarters-State (JFHQ-State) construct designed to swiftly meet counterterrorism requirements or carry out emergency response.